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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-227
Monday
26 November 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

Radio Reports on Tourist Bus Attack

JN2511113390 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Our correspondent in Egypt of Arabism has reported that an armed attack was carried out against Zionist tourists near the Egyptian-Palestinian border. The attack resulted in four dead and several injured as a first estimate.

An enemy embassy spokesman in Cairo admitted the attack.

It is noteworthy that this operation is the second of its kind after the Ismailiah bus operation earlier this year.

Islamic Jihad Claims Culpability

JN2511131790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1302 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Organization-Bayt al-Maqdis, a Palestinian organization which is active in the occupied territories, has claimed responsibility for the attack this morning on an Israeli bus in the Tabah area on the Egyptian-Israeli border.

Diplomatic sources in Cairo have noted that as a result of the attack four people were killed and 20 wounded. However, the Islamic Jihad Organization-Bayt al-Maqdis, which claimed responsibility for the operation, states that five Israelis were killed and the remaining passengers were wounded.

Egyptian Role Praised

JN2611075090 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 0520 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] [words indistinct] and 20 others were injured by bullets fired by a person from Egyptian territory while traveling on an Israeli tourist bus near the Tabah border post inside the occupied territory. The source, according to AFP, added that the person fled in a car that was waiting for him. Now it is not difficult to realize and understand the indications, signficance, and political dimensions of this report. Briefly we can say straight away that Egyptian citizens are completely detached from the Egyptian regime and its media and writers. While the Camp David regime and its writers are day and night beating the drums for U.S. aggression and Israel, and inciting people against the Arabs and Palestinians in particular, the Egyptian citizens act in a manner confirming that all the regime and its writers are saying is nothing but worthless nonsense and the manifestations of Camp David in which the Egyptian people see nothing but humiliation and poverty.

The Egyptian media's nonsense, lies, allegations, and abuses against the free Arabs are being disregarded by the Egyptian citizens. In fact, as proved by these heroic operations carried out by Egyptian citizens such as Sulayman Khatir, Sa'id al-Nusayr, the hero of the first Israeli tourist operation, and the hero of the latest operation, such nonsense now is drawing violent reactions from the Egyptian citizens, exactly the opposite of what it is aimed at. Thus we are seeing an escalation of confrontation against the Israeli enemy everywhere.

Blessed be the heroes of Egypt of Arabism, Egypt of 'Abd-al- Nasir. Greetings to you, O valiant ones! This is the voice of Egypt and the role of Egypt as we know it. Long live Egypt and down with the humble chorus—the enemies of Egypt and the Arab nation.

Radio Reports Gunboat Clash off Tyre

JN2511113690 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] An armed clash took place last night between a Zionist gunboat and a fedayeen boat off Tyre in southern Lebanon. The Zionist enemy radio admitted the clash but did not give details on the casualties which the fedayeen inflicted on the Zionist naval forces.

It is to be recalled that this is the fifth clash this year between the resistance forces and the Zionist naval force.

Losses in Clash Reported

JN2511181690 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1735 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] A military spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP-GC] has stated the following: On the third anniversary of the Qibyah martyrs operation in which gliders were used, and the second anniversary of the aborted Zionist landing operation on our bases in al-Na'imah and al-Damur, and while one of our boats was carrying out its duty of monitoring the enemy's moves between the coast of al-Jiyah and al-Damur, our comrades discovered several Zionist enemy gunboats approaching al-Sa'diyat beach. The enemy boats seemed to be on the verge of carrying out a landing operation to attack the PFLP-GC's bases in this area to take revenge against our front on the anniversary of the Qibyah martyrs operation. However, the alertness of the navy deprived the enemy of this opportunity. An unequal battle took place between the Zionist gunboats, which were supported by Zionist aircraft and helicopters, and our comrades' rubber boat. The battle between our hero comrades and the Zionist naval and air forces lasted two hours.

Our losses: Four missing fedayeen and the rubber boat was sunk. One of our hero comrades managed to return safely to shore.

We in the PFLP-GC hold the enemy responsible for the fate of our missing comrades and call on the International Red Cross to do its duty in this regard. On the other hand, we reaffirm that the front's fighters, who have made a pledge to pursue armed struggle, are capable of reaching the heart of the Zionist military establishment and deal lethal blows to it at the appropriate place and time. The Front's bases and fighters will remain a source of constant anxiety for the Zionist enemy, and its repeated attempts to damage it and the determination of our revolutionaries will not succeed.

We pledge to the martyrs of our nation and our revolution, to the masses of our people, and to their blessed intifadah that we will pursue the course of armed struggle until the land and man are liberated.

[Signed] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

Commentary Views Bush Visit to Region

JN2311141090 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, mistaken he who thinks that U.S. President George Bush has come to the region to obtain approval from his hosts to attack the fraternal Iraq and implement the second part of the U.S.-Zionist conspiracy to pounce on the Arab nation's land and waters in the Gulf. The decision of war and aggression is 100 percent American, and when we say American, we do not ignore the direct Zionist role in the decision. Those who are hosting the U.S. armies and fleets of occupation have nothing to do with it. They do not have a free will. At best, they may have in the U.S. aggression scenario a protocolar role that does not go beyond signing a blank piece of paper on which the U.S.-Zionist coalition will write down what it prepared years ago: a scheme to destroy, humiliate, and enslave this nation from the ocean to the Gulf.

In fact, George Bush did not come to his hosts to get their approval for the war decision or to shake hands with those for whom, we are almost certain, deep in his heart Bush has no respect, for one simple reason. They are the picture of the slave, part and parcel. They even excel in their lowly, subservient portrayal, contrary to what a real slave would do in the psychological sense of the word. Yes, George Bush comes to the region to see his forces in the Arabian Gulf and bless their aggression. He also comes to the region to learn of their field preparations for war, and hence assess—together with his experts, analysts, and advisers—the gains and losses in the scenario of aggression. This has put the United States in a quandary because it is faced by something that was not taken into account by any of the Pentagon celebrities. It is faced with Iraq's ability to deter and with Iraq's determination to defeat the aggression which is able to burn the land and make the war take a course not desired by the Americans and the Zionists and which will sweep away the Zionist entity in a mammoth flood. Add to this the free Arab individuals' hatred of and desire to settle accounts with the evil U.S.-Zionist coalition.

Most probably—and in light of such an Arab reality that clearly shows not only the subservience of the defeatists but also the determination of the glorious free men to deter the U.S.-Zionist aggression and protect the Arab nation from its dark perils—George Bush will return to Washington more convinced that the decision to stop the war that he might ignite in the Middle East is much more difficult than the decision to start it. Furthermore, the extent and results of the war will be different from the U.S.-Zionist Pentagon's plans and fantasies.

Bush will not know how and where a war that may start in the Gulf will end. This is what Bush will sense, not from his hosts—or tools who are dancing his tune of war and aggression—but from the freemen of the Arab nation whom he will not meet but see in control of the skies wherever he sets foot, and wherever he does not.

Commentary Assails Thatcher's Middle East Policy

LD2411211690 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers. Perhaps the timing is the most important, most exciting element of the departure of the British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher from the British political scene. The Iron Lady is being driven out while performing one of the most grave and most vicious roles, in that she leads the propaganda for war in the Gulf. Even if Iraq were to show flexibility, and even if the scope for a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis were to become possible and inspire optimism, to Mrs. Thatcher the Iraqi regime must be pursued. Leaving Kuwait would not be enough. Its chemical weapons must be destroyed, and its military capabilities must be clipped. These were the latest proposals and statements made by Mrs. Thatcher. If the decision of war and peace was effectively in the hands of the latter, she would have given Iraq just one option with no alternative: War, so long as Iraq would be paying the same price in any case.

One does not know why Thatcher puts herself in this position, and why she is ahead of the United States in calling for war even though she is immeasurably behind the United States in terms of power, capability, and international sovereignty. Most likely the first reason for this is the obduracy of this woman and the belief, despite being more than 10 years in power that the world has not changed; that Britain is still Great Britain; and that, despite its receding power, Britain should be able through inflexible or rather excessive positions to share with the United States the spoils and the neocolonial influence it has inherited from the old colonialism.

It could also be that Mrs. Thatcher has gone to such extremes because she believes she is a woman that can do what men cannot do in trying to retrieve a receding empire that even the greatest could not retrieve. But even this supposition may not be true because Mrs. Thatcher is man-like, and therefore she must have been teased by golden dreams about the empire over which the sun never sets. She thus wanted to turn the dream into reality in the shadow of the United States, that is the sole superpower in the world.

However, Thatcher's functions and her attempts to make Britain available as the spearhead for the United States were not confined to the Gulf crisis. They have led her to standing alone in opposing the European unionist current, against the EEC, and even against the European monetary union that represents the European aspiration for unity. The background of the quest to realize such unity is not devoid of the fear to see the United States continue its control over the world and turn all, including Europe, into second-class powers that accede to their vital interests only through the American door.

No doubt Thatcher's position has disturbed the Europeans twice: once because it was an American penetration of the European front, and another time because it was not just one position but a series of positions which would continue to be a source of impedence, agitation, and confusion for Europe. Mrs. Thatcher knows very well that this is not the position of the British people, nor is it that of the British elite.

Thus, the iron-minded woman departs; she still stands by the Balfour Declaration as far as the Palestinian question is concerned, and she is calling for pursuing the Iraqi military force until the latter is clipped or left helpless. Meanwhile, she has said something about Israeli nuclear power while not mentioning—far from it—the fact that all the massacres, torment, occupation, the rule by steel and fire, and the racism to which the Palestinians are subjected require the clipping of Israeli military power, just as they require the protection of the Palestinian people and a just solution to the Palestinian question.

The Iron Lady departs after Grenada, the Falklands, Panama, and the numerous military expeditions that she has led sometimes—such as the Falklands—or after backing the United States and incited it to undertake them. She leaves after exerting huge efforts on the road to taking racist South Africa out of the international blockade, after becoming known for her extreme reactionary and right-wing views, and sometimes for her chauvinistic tendency.

At the beginning, we said that the most important element of the departure of the Iron Lady, or her being made to depart by her own party, was the timing of the departure ceremonies. Perhaps the Conservative Party will succeed in bringing about a political personality with less obduracy, more flexibility, and more openness who will put Britain on the doorstep of dealing politically with international issues with openness and an understanding of the international changes and events required by these issues; a doorstep that looks into the rights of man and peoples as a basic objective that must be realized and observed in all cases on an equal footing, without dividing legitimacy and without the use of scores of criteria.

Bye Bye Thatcher. Bye bye, not au revoir, to all those who fail to realize that history has its own movement that imposes changes and that, inevitably, the changes of history are for the good of the people.

Memorandum Requests Aid in Curbing Israeli Policy

LD2411155590 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] The PLO sent a memorandum to the USSR, the PRC, the EEC, and the Nonaligned Movement on statements by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

WAFA reported in Tunis last night that this memorandum was delivered by Abdullatif Buhajma, PLO Political Department director general, to the USSR and PRC ambassadors to Tunis, as well as the ambassador from Italy—current EEC chairman—and the ambassador from Yugoslavia—current Nonaligned Movement chairman.

The Palestinian memorandum considers Shamir's statements a new blow to all the efforts and initiatives to reduce tensions in the Middle East and to efforts to achieve a comprehensive political solution to the regional situation.

The memorandum asks the UN Security Council to take practical measures to curb the expansionist and aggressive policy of Shamir's government and to open a practical way to achieve peace by holding an international Middle East peace conference.

Incidentally, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat already sent urgent messages to Arab leaders, the Islamic Conference Organization chairman, and the OAU chairman calling on them to take effective measures to confront the risks resulting from such statements.

PLO Reportedly Funds Arab Opposition Groups

JN2311190590 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 19 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] Tunis—Exclusive to AL-AHRAM: According to informed Palestinian sources, the PLO leadership has made available a large amount of money to certain exiled Syrian, Tunisian, Sudanese, and Algerian opposition figures, especially those engaged in wideranging political activity, as well as political refugees. There have also been secret Palestinian contacts recently with opposition groups in a number of Arab countries with the object of agitating public opinion so as to promote Iraq's cause and pressure Arab governments into adopting a pro-Iraq position, the sources added.

An Arab intelligence service recently had access to a list of opposition figures from a number of Arab countries who have received funding from the PLO, the sources said.

Algeria

Belkhadim Says No-Confidence Motion Planned

LD2411161690 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Interview with Abdelaziz Belkhadim, speaker of the National People's Assembly, by parliamentary affairs correspondent Norddine Boutaguia; place and date of interview not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Boutaguia] Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago you stated that you are honored to be the speaker of a multiparty assembly which includes various political orientations and inclinations. Does this mean that inside the National People's Assembly there are deputies, strata, and factions who have inclinations toward a number of political groups?

[Belkahdem] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Yes, in essence, the assembly is a multiparty one. Although deputies should belong to one party, when a bill is put forward for discussion, one can see the difference in stances and ideas. This allows me to assert that the assembly was, even during the era of the one party system, more like a multiparty one. [passage omitted]

[Bouteguia] As far as relations between the National People's Assembly and the government are concerned, it seems that a number of deputies are preparing a no-confidence motion regarding the government. Is this true or not?

[Belkhadem] It is true. They are preparing to withdraw confidence from the government, which is within the framework of democratic procedures. It is the deputies' right, as the Constitution stipulates, to present a motion of no-confidence in the government. At the same time, the government has the right to seek a vote on its program. We are scheduled to hear a statement from the head of the government within the context of the implementation of his program during the first year of premiership. Proceeding from the fact that he is answerable to the National People's Assembly, he should provide us with last year's results as far as the implementation of reforms in the legislative and organizational spheres are concerned. He will be making a statement on the implementation of his program at the end of this month or the beginning of next month. Brothers will be able then to use their rights under the Constitution. I have also heard that there will be a no-confidence motion in the government. [passage omitted]

AMU Envoys Protest 'Racist' Attacks in France

LD2311214390 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] In a meeting with the secretary general of the French Foreign Ministry, ambassadors of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] asked him to convey to President Francois Mitterrand their strong condemnation of the racist aggression to which a number of AMU citizens were exposed at the hands of French paratroopers in the south of France.

The AMU diplomats also conveyed to the French official the concern of public opinion in the AMU countries over the racist actions to which the people of the region are exposed in France.

Parliamentary Friendship Group With Iran Created

LD2511130190 Algiers APS in English 1030 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Algiers, 25/11/90 (APS)—Algeria-Iran parliamentary friendship group was set up yesterday at the People's National Assembly (APN). Under the leadership of the chairman, Abdelaziz Belkhadem, at the presence of the head of the commission of the foreign affairs and the international cooperation. [sentence as received]

Belkhadem and the Iranian ambassador to Algiers reaffirmed on this occasion the relations of friendship solidarity that exist between the two countries, underlining that this friendship group among the Algerian and the Iranian parliaments contributes to the reinforcement of the links of cooperation and consultation between the two countries.

Egypt

Reportage on Attack Against Israeli Tourist Bus

Four Killed, 20 Wounded

NC2511103590 Paris AFP in English 1026 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, Nov 25 (AFP)—A gunman firing from Egypt killed four Israelis and wounded at least 20 others in an attack on an Israeli bus on Sunday, diplomatic sources said.

The killer, using a Soviet-made Kalashnikov semiautomatic rifle, fired into Israel from Egyptian territory near the border post at Tabah and escaped in a waiting car, they said.

It was the second such attack since the beginning of the year.

On February 4, masked gunmen intercepted a bus carrying Israeli tourists 60 kilometers (37 miles) north of Cairo on the desert road linking the Egyptian capital and the city of Ismailia on the Suez Canal.

The machine gun and grenade attack left 11 dead and 19 wounded. [passage omitted].

Soldier Arrested for Attack

NC2511113390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A responsible security source at the Egyptian Interior Ministry has stated that a soldier who is attached to the civilian police forces responsible for guarding the Egyptian-Israeli border at border marker 81 and who is suspected of having opened fire on the Israelis has been arrested. The source added that the responsible authorities are interrogating the soldier so that the truth can be brought to light. He added that Egypt, as a matter of principle, rejects acts of violence and terrorism or attacks on neighbors via the border. For this reason, it takes care to uncover the facts and anyone who is found guilty will receive a deterrent and just punishment in accordance with the law.

The official extended condolences to the families of the victims of the painful incident and noted that the peace process will not be adversely affected by such individual actions which try to harm it.

'Abd-al-Majid Expresses Sorrow

NC2511142890 Cairo MENA in English 1355 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, Nov. 25 (MENA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, expressed regret over the incident which took place today on the Israeli-Egyptian borders, when an Egyptian border guard opened fire on vehicle carrying Israeli soldiers and workers near the borders killing and wounding a number of Israelis.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid asserted that Egypt is against such irresponsible acts and hoped that such actions by irresponsible elements would not affect relations between Egypt and Israel.

Canadian Foreign Minister Joseph Clark said after his meeting today with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid that he is sorry over the incident, adding that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid explained to him the details of the event.

Ghali Expresses 'Regret'

NC2511111890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1102 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today received Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Efrayim Dubek.

The meeting dealt with the incident that took place near the Israeli border in which a number of Israelis were killed.

In this connection, Dr. Ghali expressed regret over this incident. He also expressed the hope that it would not affect the concern all parties share for the maintenance of peace in the region

MENA has learned that the Israeli authorities informed the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv early today that at 0630, at border marker 81 on the Egyptian-Israeli border in an area 13 km to the north of Elat on the asphalt road between Rafah and Elat, an individual wearing an Egyptian Army uniform opened fire on four Israeli vehicles carrying troops and workers. The attack resulted in the death of four people and the wounding of a number of others. The Israeli authorities added that the perpetrator was also hit by a bullet, after which he retreated inside Egyptian territory.

The Israeli ambassador stated that [words indistinct] on a bus carrying workers to their place of work and a group of civilian cars in an area 20 km from Elat near the Egyptian-Israeli border. He killed four people and injured 24 others, some of them seriously.

The Israeli ambassador added that the Egyptian Government will launch an investigation into the incident to uncover the perpetrator. He said that Dr. Ghali had expressed his regret over this incident and said that the identity of the attacker, and whether he is an Egyptian, is not yet known.

He added: "I hope he will not turn out to be Egyptian. I also hope that this incident will not have an adverse effect on Egyptian-Israeli relations."

Asked whether this incident is linked to the Gulf crisis, he said that anything is possible, particularly in light of the complications in the region.

He concluded his statement by saying he was profoundly moved by Dr. Ghali's expressions of regret after this incident.

He announced: "I hope the Egyptian Government will issue a statement on this issue."

Reportage on President Bush-Mubarak Meeting

Mubarak Speaks at Luncheon

NC2311141890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1229 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Nov (MENA)—During a luncheon banquet held in honor of U.S. President George Bush today, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak delivered the following speech:

President Bush; Mrs. Bush; Dear friends.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Egypt, the country which has long supported peace and stability in a region that is beset by turmoil.

You are among friends who are loyal to the same goals of justice, peace, and prosperity. Our just cause and our common objectives bestow special importance on your visit. We share the same commitment to work for a just and peaceful resolution of the regional conflicts.

We also strictly adhere to the law and respect for human rights. Our response to the tragic incidents that took place in the Gulf during the past few months is tantamount to a testimony to our strong commitment, a moral commitment.

Our will shall not weaken and our determination shall never waver.

We shall continue to be steadfast until the error has been corrected and the injustice has been uprooted.

We look forward to the post-Gulf crisis phase with the same determination and clarity of view. We shall continue to cooperate so that the Middle East region may become more stable and secure.

President Bush. I have known you intimately for approximately a decade. I remember well the final tete-a-tete we had in Washington in 1981. At that time we were both vice presidents and we had less public responsibilities and official burdens.

We were also pleased to receive you and your wife when you visited Egypt in August 1986. That visit enabled you to renew your ties with the Egyptian people and their culture.

Since that time we have held several meetings and our responsibilities have increased. Close contacts, consultations, and cooperation have continued between us.

In the meantime, important developments have taken place in our region and in the world. Serious problems have emerged and momentous decisions have been made.

Your current visit comes at a difficult time with regard to the Middle East and the entire world. We derive our strength and support from the fact that humanity has the ability to confront greater challenges than in the past.

We must not undermine the great achievements of the recent years. It is a definite fact that the world today is more secure than before. The structure of peace is stronger, tension between the big powers has eased, and the view of the future has certainly become brighter.

These positive developments are a cause for encouragement and inspiration as far as we are concerned. It is definitely necessary to make important decisions today and in the future. Nevertheless, we are ready to accept the challenge.

It is in this spirit that I receive you today in this amicable gathering that represents the strong basis of our friendship.

President Bush. When you return to your country after this exhausting trip, I would like you to convey to all the American people, those in the American administration, and the members of Congress our sincerest sentiments of gratitute and appreciation for their efforts to strengthen the Egyptian-American friendship.

Dear friends. Let us stand to salute President Bush and Mrs. Bush, and all the guests who are present here with us, as well as the American people. I believe that I still have the chance to congratulate you on Thanksgiving day. Thank you.

Bush-Mubarak News Conference

NC2311151590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1035 GMT 23 Nov 90

[News conference by President George Bush and President Husni Mubarak at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis, Cairo with unidentified reporters; in English with superimposed Arabic translation—live]

[Text] [Mubarak] We welcome President Bush in Egypt as an outstanding leader of a great nation. We welcome him as a true friend. President Mubarak [as heard] is a farsighted and wise statesman. His visit to Cairo is a symbol of the American-Egyptian friendship that is based on mutual respect and common principles. We feel proud of this friendship. This visit will enhance the cause of peace in the region, help eliminate injustice and war, and contribute toward the establishment of a new world order. Our countries, both large and small, have a right to live in peace and dignity. In our talks today we discussed several issues of common concern. We have emerged with a greater understanding of how to address the urgent issues in the next few weeks. We have tried every means to end the Gulf crisis. There is no doubt that we and the entire world reject occupation and repression which threaten peace and security everywhere, are a blatant violation of legal principles, and could undermine the foundations of our civilization. The Iraqi invasion must end and Kuwait must be liberated. No tactics can weaken our resolve or determination. To us it is a matter of principled obligation, and we are ready to confront the challenge of this crisis. We will not agree to a compromise on principles and will not bargain over the Kuwaiti people's basic rights, dignity, and independence. We stand by the international community to end the Gulf tragedy in order to devote our efforts to address with equal zeal and enthusiasm the other issues, primarily the Palestinian people's cause. We must concentrate on this issue, and the Palestinian people must obtain their right to determine their future. The holy places should be respected.

Mr President: You have come to us in peace and on a peace mission, and we salute you in peace. We stand here together during crucial moments in the history of our region and of the entire world. We are confronting great dangers, but there are still some opportunities. We stand united to fulfill the aspirations of the peoples of the Middle East and of the whole world. We will continue our work to build on the basis of what we have achieved to benefit all mankind and for the prosperity of our peoples.

[Bush] Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to say that my talks with Your Excellency on the issues have been of great benefit. I would like to say that I hope to return to Cairo and to talk with you in a positive way about the Arab Gulf situation. We are seeking to find a peaceful solution, and this is why we imposed sanctions on Iraq—in order to avoid a confrontation in the region. We have knocked on all doors for that purpose. I would like to stress that we have completely identical views on the Gulf crisis and the means of tackling it. The aggressor must withdraw unconditionally and immediately.

There is absolutely no scope for bargaining over the Kuwaiti people's rights. President Saddam must withdraw so as to spare the region the ordeals of war or a military confrontation and to avoid the use of weapons of mass destruction in the region.

We reiterate our commitment to work together in order to achieve success in ending the Gulf crisis and to establish peace in the region. I believe that much credit is due to your leadership. I am happy to have this opportunity to exchange views and to consult with you. Thank you, and thanks for your warm welcome.

[Reporter] [indistinct question in English in the background] A question now about ending the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in order to avoid a military confrontation in the region. Regarding the Arab solution, Mr. President, what do you say about the demands for finding an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis and the means of implementing this solution?

[Mubarak] Your question is not a difficult one, but I would like to tell you that in Yemen they have said that they will not vote for the resolution to use force and that they are looking for an Arab solution. Any solution, be it an Arab, a French, an English, or an American one depends on two principal points: The complete and unconditional withdrawal and the restoration of Kuwait's legitimate government. As for the demand that force should not be used, we all do not want military force used but want a peaceful solution based on complete withdrawal and restoration of Kuwait's legitimate government. If anyone can solve this problem and reach these objectives, then we will applaud him. There is no solution without unconditional withdrawal and restoration of the legitimate government.

[Bush] I would like to add here that the Congress will continue its consultations on the principles that must be applied in this regard and on how to present our stands to the American people.

As President Husni Mubarak said, we want a peaceful solution, but patience can run out. The United Nations had adopted many resolutions to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. It is imperative for us to maintain our determination to attain this objective. As I [as heard] said, the Republic of Yemen declined to vote in favor of the resolution which provides for the use of force and said that it will not support the other resolutions. But we can assure you that the world is still determined to confront Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's aggression against Kuwait.

[Reporter] You have pointed out, as President Bush just said, that the Arab solution must be based on two main points. What would the Egyptian role be if it is deemed imperative to resort to military confrontation, and what would the Egyptian Armed Forces' role be in the event of an actual military confrontation in the region?

[Mubarak] Look, we have discussed all these points right from the start with the President and other friends. We sent troops to Saudi Arabia, and everyone knows their task. I am not in a position to give you details about how these forces would work and how these troops would coordinate within the framework of the working plan in this regard. We must react if the military option proved to be the last solution.

[Reporter] Mr. President, you have pointed out the posssibility of using nuclear weapons and other all-out destructive weapons in the region. Why then the urgency, and why are President Mubarak's remarks characterized by pessimism?

[Bush] I would like to recall that the world's patience has a limit. I did say that we will never submit to any concessions with regard to Kuwait. But we must implement all of the resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council. We indeed are trying by diplomatic and political methods, and through our consultations with our brothers in the world and our Arab brothers, to spare the region the catastrophies of war.

We all hope that a peaceful solution to the tragedy in Kuwait will actually be reached. I would also like to say that we will indeed continue our attempts and efforts in this regard. As President Mubarak and I have just said, we will continue to work together with all our friends to force President Saddam Husayn to withdraw from Kuwait so that the legitimate government will return to Kuwait.

We are actually in need of more time to achieve this. However, Mrs. Helen [not further identified], the main point is the need to achieve the Iraqi president's withdrawal from Kuwait. This is the main test, and we are endeavoring to realize this. I believe that my visit has convinced everyone of the proposed options in this regard.

[Reporter] Can we draw some conclusions with regard to the situation in the Middle East? What is your reaction to the recent statements of the Iraqi [as heard] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir with regard to the occupied territories?

[Bush] First I would like to say that this is not a direct answer to your question, but when I arrived in Cairo—and I have not mentioned this to President Mubarak—the Eastern European countries are more convinced of the need not to allow the Iraqi president to reap the fruits of his aggression. I have said and reiterated this on many occasions because those countries themselves had been subjected to aggression and know the extent of injustice that man can suffer when he is subjected to aggression. As President Mubarak has already mentioned about the issue of establishing a new world order, we must reject aggression. We should not allow the aggressor to reap any fruits or gains from his aggression. This applies fully to the situation in the Arab Gulf region. Hence the establishment of a new world order completely rejects what Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has done.

Regarding the Palestinian question and Shamir's statements, I prefer not to comment on them until I have studied them. But I would like to say that we are determined to be a helping factor in answering the Palestinian question in accordance with Security Council Resolution 242. We are seriously trying. And I believe that I have to mention in this respect that we are also determined to implement all the Security Council resolutions on the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

I would like to say that we are all seeking to find lasting peace in the region because this serves the aims of the international community. I must note the difficulties that we are facing in this regard. What has taken place in Kuwait and what is taking place in the West Bank are completely separate. But I stress that we can help reach a comprehensive solution for the Middle East issue.

[Reporter] What about the talks that you held in Syria, Mr. President, and the talks that President Bush has held [as heard] with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad?

[Bush] You want me to answer first, Mr. President? If the question is why are we opposing Saddam Husayn when we were seeking to improve our relations with Iraq, I would like to say that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has violated international principles and norms by committing aggression against Kuwait. I have already said that we will not allow the aggressor to reap the rewards of his aggression.

[Reporter] It is a role reversal in the fact that Mr. al-Asad is the one who has been on the list of [words indistinct]?

[Bush] I would like to say that President Hafiz al-Asad backs and supports our stand. President al-Asad opposes Iraq's aggression against the state of Kuwait, and he is also against rewarding the aggressor for his aggression. I will discuss all these matters with him when I meet with him in Geneva.

I would like to say that Syria is opposed to the Iraqi regime. I would also like to say that we will cooperate with those countries which endeavor to terminate the Iraqi aggression, and I will continue to work closely with all countries attempting to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

[Mubarak] I think the President has answered all the questions. I would like to say that Syria is one of the main countries which has adopted a completely supportive stand. We must not ignore it in this regard.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]?

[Mubarak] I believe that President Bush previously said in a statement three days ago that President al-Asad is considered one of the principal leaders in this region and that he completely rejects the occupation of Kuwait. There are Syrian troops alongside our troops for the sake of liberating Kuwait, and therefore we must not ignore that.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]? I do not think that President Bush might be able to answer this question.

[Bush] Syria is completely participating in such movements. I believe that we discussed a number of issues which pertain to the bestial Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. Our main objective is to find the means adequate to liberate Kuwait. I do not want to say that we ignored President Hafiz al-Asad. But I would like to say that according to my itinerary in the region, President al-Asad is one of the leaders with whom I arranged to meet in order to discuss numerous issues related to the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. This is because Syria is one of the main states in the region, and it is quite important for Syria to play its role in this respect.

[Reporter] How far [words indistinct] UN on the use of force?

[Bush] I have answered this question. I said that we are endeavoring to make the UN Security Council adopt such a resolution. We are making tremendous efforts in consultation with the other countries in the Security Council. I am confident that we will succeed in the Security Council because the world's patience over the Iraqi president's stand has run out. The Security Council previously adopted a number of resolutions demanding Iraq withdraw from Kuwait, but the Iraqi president continues to turn a deaf ear regarding the implementation of these resolutions. The world has grown disappointed because the Iraqi president has absolutely no intention of implementing the Security Council resolutions or responding to the international community's desire.

I believe that Yemen understands this situation well, even though Yemen refused to vote for certain resolutions at the Security Council. Yemen declared that it will not vote for a resolution that will be endorsed on the use of force.

[Reporter] Regarding the UN mission on the situation in the Gulf, how is the Security Council going to cooperate with Egypt in view of its political and historic responsibilities in the region?

[Bush] I need not say that we cooperate closely with Egypt. This issue is being discussed between the United States and Egypt. The Security Council has nothing to do with this issue. The United States will work with the Security Council to have a resolution endorsed on the Gulf situation. The role that Egypt is playing in this regard concerns bilateral ties between the two countries. I would like to assure you that we will continue our close cooperation and explore avenues to achieve the goals to which we aspire. In view of their special and long-standing relations, the United States and Egypt are working in tandem and with full cooperation and coordination.

[Reporter] What will the situation be like after the Kuwaiti problem is solved through peace or war?

[Mubarak] Of course after the Kuwaiti problem has been solved, or rather after liberating Kuwait, there should be certain arrangements to guarantee the stability of this region and to avoid further tension or war.

[Reporter] Is there anything regarding the borders?

[Mubarak] If there is any need for Arab forces regarding this issue, we should do what we have to. We will begin with the peoples of the Gulf region. We will ask them to make their proposals and the decisions in this respect.

[Reporter] You are well aware that there are many reactions. I wonder about what you said today about the separation of the tragedy of Kuwait and the Palestinian issue.

[Bush] I believe that the Israeli prime minister well understands what I am trying to do. The two issues are indeed separate. I do not want to go into details until I study the Israeli prime minister's statement. However, during this tour I focused on the Kuwaiti tragedy. I want to emphasize that Syria is an important element in this issue. I will discuss this issue with Israeli Prime Minister Shamir when he visits the United States. I am happy that you posed this question so that there will be no misunderstanding of what I have already stated in this respect. The United States absolutely does not accept aggression, but instead totally rejects it. The peace that the United States is seeking is a comprehensive one involving every country in the region, including Israel itself. Our talks are in fact basically focused on the Iraqi president's aggression against Kuwait.

[Reporter] Do you think, Mr. President, that you can carry out more diplomatic exchanges if you indeed want to avert a military confrontation with Iraq?

[Bush] I would like to say that my meeting with President al-Asad should in no way indicate that there are no differences between the United States and Syria. But there is a common interest in ending the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

[Mubarak] I believe that it is no problem if President Bush meets with President Hafiz al-Asad. We must encourage that. However, our common objective is to establish peace and stability. I think there is a big difference between solving the problem through telephone conversations and effective face-to-face discussion of the topics. Thank you.

[Reporter] This is the last question, according to my information. How do you envisage the new world order?

[Bush] When we terminate this aggression, when stability returns to the Gulf region, and when the invading aggressor leaves Kuwait, I believe that the scene will be ready for an international order based on closer cooperation among all parties in the service of all nations.

I would like to reiterate that the aggressor will absolutely not succeed because he obstructs the establishment of a new international order based on cooperation and understanding serving the interests of all nations. I would like to say that many signs in many parts of the world indicate that the new international order has come within our reach as can be seen in South America and the emergence of democratic regimes in many countries.

I think that we must at the beginning drive away the dictator aggressor from Kuwait. Then we must formulate the international order in a way serving stability and security throughout the whole world. Right now, we are endeavoring to end Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. If we are united and if we prove that we are successful, this will undoubtedly force the dictator aggressor to withdraw from Kuwait. I believe that we are playing an effective role whether concerning the Middle East region or concerning other countries facing problems and disturbances. These were the issues which we discussed. Thank you.

Bush Departs for Geneva

NC2311150090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1353 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Nov (MENA)—U.S. President George Bush, his wife, and their accompanying delegation left Cairo for Geneva at 1530 today after an 18-hour visit to Egypt. While here, President Bush held talks with President Husni Mubarak on the latest developments in the Gulf in light of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. They also discussed bilateral relations and the possibility of strengthening and promoting these ties in all areas in the interest of the peoples of both countries, and also reviewed the latest factors in the Middle East issue in light of the recent developments in the Arab and international arenas. President Mubarak and his wife led the well wishers who said goodbye to President Bush and his wife. [passage omitted]

Stance Shows 'Strength, Firmness'

NC2411072490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2209 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Nov (MENA)—Reports on the talks between President Husni Mubarak and U.S. President George Bush, and their statements at a news conference held at the end of the U.S. President's visit to Egypt, dominate tomorrow's editions of Egyptian newspapers. The papers devote large sections of their front and inside pages to the outcome of the talks.

In their leading articles, the papers highlight assertions by Presidents Mubarak and Bush of the identical nature of the two countries' views on the Gulf crisis as well as the two leaders' announcement that there can be no bargaining over the Kuwaiti people's rights and no solution that does not include a complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the reinstatement of legitimacy there.

Photographs of the two leaders during their talks feature prominently on the first page and several inside pages of these papers, which also publish the text of the news conference and the two leaders' statements.

In an editorial on the Mubarak-Bush talks entitled "The Way Out," AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the two leaders took pains to stress the need for a peaceful solution to the explosive Gulf crisis because no one wants war and destruction, and especially because such a solution would be in the interests of the region and its peoples.

The paper adds that this stance reveals a position of strength, firmness, and determination to satisfy the international community's demand that the Iraqi Army withdraw from Kuwait unconditionally and that legitimacy be restored there. Therefore, it notes that President Mubarak stressed the need for this to be achieved to American journalists.

Concluding its editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that the extreme seriousness with which the United States, Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia are dealing with the current situation sends an extremely important message to Saddam Husayn. Saddam Husayn, the paper says, must realize that the noose is being tightened, that initiatives on television will not save him from the inevitable, and that heeding the voice of right and reason provides the only way out.

Commentary Views Bush Visit

NC2411061590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1840 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Commentary by Ahmad Sha'ban: "The Use of Force Is a Necessity and a Must, Not a Choice"]

[Excerpts] Those who imagine that there is an international or Arab desire favoring a military option to solve the Gulf crisis are wrong. From the outset, Arab and international efforts focused on reaching a peaceful solution to the crisis, a solution based on implementing the international desire to return rights to their owners. [passage omitted]

If Iraq persists in its maneuvers and attempts to impose conditions through playing the foreign hostage card, and in its obduracy and insistance on not returning things to what they were before the 2 August invasion of Kuwait, it will not be possible to escape resorting to the military option to force Iraq to fulfill the international desire. This is because the world's patience has limits, the sons of Kuwait have rights that must be retrieved, and the foreign hostages residing in Kuwait who are being subjected to Iraqi harassments have limits that no one could ask them to extend.

The statements by Presidents George Bush and Husni Mubarak after their talks in Cairo today emphasize this meaning and concept. Both Presidents expressed their desire for a peaceful settlement, which is the basis and goal they wish to achieve. In this respect, President Bush said that efforts are continuing toward a peaceful solution in coordination with certain Arab countries and international powers, but that this approach will not prevent the United States from continuing its efforts to have the Security Council endorse a resolution permitting the use of military force against Iraq. This stand is not adopted by the United States alone but it was also emphasized by the Soviet Union, France, and Britain. The PRC is not opposed to this stand if the door to peaceful endeavors is completely shut. This stand, which is upheld by the five permanent members of the Security Council, also represents the desire and will of the whole world.

However, Arab and international efforts continue to meet with Iraqi intransigence and maneuvers aimed at playing for time in the belief that a rift might occur in international solidarity against Iraq. Despite Iraq's failure in all its previous attempts in this respect, it persists in these attempts without letup. Thus Iraq is placing the difficult option before itself and the world—the military option. President Bush has asserted that the Iraqi president would be making the mistake of his life if he imagined that the world's insistence, determination, and resolve has slackened in confronting the Iraqi aggression. This statement represents a message that we hope the Iraqi president will get. We hope he will realize its seriousness to avert a catastrophe that might make the Iraqi people the victims of the use of force before their president is affected by it. The Iraqi people would then have themselves to blame for having kept silent about and having given in to their ruler's behavior and limitless ambitions.

Kuwaiti Minister Views Talks

NC2511061890 Cairo MENA in English 1903 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, Nov 24 (MENA)—Kuwaiti Minister of Communications Habib Hasan Jawhar arrived here tonight on a few days' private visit to Egypt.

Jawhar voiced optimism at U.S. President George Bush's visit to Egypt and his meeting with President Husni Mubarak.

He described Bush's statements on the issuance of a resolution authorizing the adoption of military measures against Iraq as "encouraging".

He said president Husni Mubarak's stance vis-a-vis the Kuwaiti issue is unforgettable, pointing out that such a stance is not new to President Mubarak or to the Egyptians.

Replying to a question on Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz's visit to Oman and Yemen, the Kuwaiti minister said the visit did not bring out any new results, expressing his condemnation of Yemen's stand on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and describing it as fluctuating. On Kuwaiti flights from Cairo to other countries, he said there is full coordination between Egyptair and the Kuwaiti national carrier.

The Kuwaiti [as received] Army seized 15 airliners and their spare parts and equipment, Jawhar added.

Mubarak Hints at 'Force' in Resolving Gulf Crisis

NC2411073990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0612 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Washington, 24 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that if the current Gulf crisis is not resolved peacefully, then force will have to be used.

In an interview broadcast by the U.S. television network NBC early today, President Mubarak said that President George Bush is making every effort to resolve the crisis peacefully, but at the same time he is ready to resort to force if peaceful means cannot be found. The president explained: "If no other way can be found to resolve this crisis, then we must use force."

Asked whether Egyptian forces would enter Iraq, President Mubarak affirmed that they will not "because it is not Iraq that needs to be liberated. The problem we are facing is Kuwait, that is liberating Kuwait."

Asked if this means that Egyptian forces would not cross the Iraqi border under any circumstances, President Mubarak asserted: "We will never cross the Iraqi border. We will not fight Iraq under any circumstances."

In response to a question about what is being described as the international solution or the Arab solution, President Husni Mubarak said that it is not important what name is attached to this solution—Arab, international, or American. What is important is that the solution should be carried out. He continued: "Use any name you want. What is important is that the solution should be a total unconditional withdrawal and the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government."

Asked if it is possible for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to hold on to his war capability and means of threat after Kuwait's liberation, the president replied: "Let us begin with the liberation of Kuwait and achieving a total withdrawal. This is the problem that must be resolved first. After that everything can be discussed."

In the interview, which was conducted by the U.S. network's anchorman Tom Brokaw, the president added: "In the United States you talk about too many things at once, such as a possible attack on Israel or other targets. The fact is that Iraq is not a great power."

On the Palestinian issue, the president stressed the need for this crisis to be resolved as well. He declared: "There must be progress on this issue. We must not neglect it, but the two issues should not be linked."

Iraq Restricts Travel for Egyptian Workers

JN2511103690 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 21 Nov 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Ahmad al-'Amawi, head of the Egyptian Labor Union, has announced that 99 percent of the current labor force in Iraq is Egyptian. He added that Iraq has confiscated the passports of 750,000 Egyptians and prevented them from leaving the country in a bid to maintain their running of its vital utilities. Iraq, he said, is fully aware that if the Egyptians are allowed to leave, these utilities will come to a standstill, especially after the young Iraqis were drafted into the army.

Addressing a labor conference on the Gulf crisis organized by the Labor University in cooperation with the German Friedrich Eibert Foundation, al-'Amawi stressed the need to discuss the possible return of these workers once the war breaks out and the best ways to support the Egyptian labor market and guarantee a stable situation following their return. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Iraqi Resistance to Saddam

NC2511065390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Commentary by Ahmad Sha'ban: "A Torrent Begins With a Trickle"]

[Text] For the first time since it invaded Kuwait, Iraq's authorities and newspapers have reported that several youths were arrested following disturbances at some Baghdad schools. The Iraqi authorities announced that a number of adolescents created a state of fear by distributing leaflets and writing slogans on walls.

We need not discuss the contents of the leaflets nor the words of the slogans. What is important here is that although this is not the first time Baghdad has witnessed such actions, it is the first time that the Iraqi authorities have admitted it. There had been many reports about demonstrations during which portraits of the Iraqi president were defaced or torn up, but the authorities always repressed such reports. This time, however, they admitted that such incidents had taken place.

What does this mean? Does it mean that these actions have become so widespread that the Iraqi authorities could no longer ignore or attempt to conceal them? Or was the Iraqi announcement prompted by the accounts of the demonstrations and the accompanying acts of violence committed by the Iraqi authorities provided by some travelers from Baghdad? Some reports said that these acts of violence resulted in the death of a number of schoolgirls.

We ask anew: What does the phenomenon of the demonstrationss mean? Is it the prelude to an organized resistance movement by the Iraqi people to compel their rulers to halt the reckless actions that could result in tragedy for the Iraqi people? These demonstrations signify a complete rejection of all the measures to which the Iraqi rulers resort.

Does this phenomenon indicate that the Iraqi people will no longer tolerate their rulers' procrastination and their unfulfilled promises of prosperity and happiness? The Iraqi rulers have only brought destruction and ruination upon their people, be it during the long years of war with

Iran or since the invasion of Kuwait. Despite the iron fist and rule of steel and fire with which Saddam governs his people, the youths have risen to voice the opinion of all the Iraqi people on their rulers' suppression and intimidation.

We can say without reservation that the popular explosion that has taken place was only to be expected. Despite the Iraqi authorities' large-scale campaign of arrests and persecution and their use of all legal and illegal means to suppress this revolution by the youths, what has happened indicates that an enormous popular insurgency has begun and will inevitably be followed by similar incidents.

Will the Iraqi people's insurgency continue until they achieve their goals and rid themselves of the ambitious and greedy hangmen who are trying to destroy them? Or will the Iraqi president and his aides tighten their grip and use their bestial methods to crush the first stirrings of the revolution, reasserting their control that could lead the Iraqi people to destruction and ruination? Baghdad's admission lacked any information about the fate of the demonstrators or about how many of them were executed.

Canadian External Affairs Minister Pays Visit

Makes Statement on Arrival

NC2511125990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Nov (MENA)—Canadian External Affairs Minister Joe Clark arrived in Cairo this morning for a one-day visit to Egypt during which he will be received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

In an arrival statement, Clark said he will hold talks with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, that will deal with two issues: bilaterial relations, which he described as "excellent and distinctive;" and the situation in the Gulf, particularly in view of the key role Egypt, under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak, is playing in the search for a solution to this issue. He pointed out that his country is participating in the multinational force in the Gulf and asserted that it supports the UN Security Council resolutions to resolve the crisis.

He announced that he will listen to the Egyptian viewpoint on this crisis and how to resolve it.

The Canadian external affairs minister referred to the Arab-Israeli conflict and said that this conflict can be resolved following the settlement of the Gulf crisis on the basis of the Security Council resolutions.

On the Security Council meeting to adopt a resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq, Clark said that it is Iraq itself that is making it possible for the Security Council to exercise its prerogative to use force. He added that his country has supported previous Security Council resolutions and held consultations with the Soviet foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state and that it will continue its contacts in this regard.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid received the Canadian guest at the airport and stated that the Egyptian-Canadian talks will deal with the situation in the Gulf, particularly as Canada plays a major role in this crisis.

Debt Repayment Postponed

NC2511154290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Canadian External Affairs Minister Joe Clark has said that his talks with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, were useful. He expressed Canada's appreciation of the role being played by President Mubarak in working out a settlement for the Gulf crisis. He said that Canada, as a member of the UN Security Council, is interested in the situation in the Gulf and that it will resume efforts to find a solution to the problem.

He said Canada has decided to postpone Egypt's repayment of the $13 million debt. He added that the Canadian Government will allocate $30 million in assistance to the countries which have been adversely affected by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, expressed his appreciation of the measures adopted by the Canadian Government to assist the countries affected by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He said Canada has a significant role to play in finding a peaceful solution to the Gulf problem and avoiding a military confrontation.

Meets Mubarak, Comments

NC2611100390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0911 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Canadian External Affairs Minister Joe Clark at the presidential headquarters this morning. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended the one-hour meeting.

After the meeting the Canadian minister expressed deep appreciation for President Mubarak's policy toward the Gulf crisis. He said: Canada is eager to consult with Egypt about the crisis and about bilateral issues.

He pointed out that his country is participating militarily in the Gulf region by sending aircraft and warships and politically by supporting the Security Council resolutions and helping the countries affected by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Commenting on the U.S. draft resolution submitted to the Security Council, Clark said Security Council resolutions are meant to be implemented and that the new resolution will enhance the previous resolutions and make them applicable.

He added that the final formula of the draft resolution has not been defined yet, and that the foreign ministers [not identified] will meet in New York on Thursday to agree on this formula. He noted that Canada will support a resolution passed in this respect.

Concludes Visit

NC2611100190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0913 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA)—Canadian External Affairs Minister Joe Clark left Cairo this morning at the end of a one-day visit to Egypt.

He was seen off at the airport by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and members of the Canadian Embassy staff in Cairo.

Libya

Source Denies Talks With Chad Broken Off

LD2411190690 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1745 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Nov (JANA)—JANA has learned from a responsible source at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation that the great Jamahiriayh did not break off dialogue with Chad at the level of the joint committee or other levels. However, the Jamahiriyah sees that the poisoned atmosphere created by irresponsible statements by Chadian officials does not create favorable conditions for the committee to hold its meeting.

The source added that Libya does not need to stress its firm stand vis-a-vis the agreements that bind it as a partner. Suffice it to say that at the last meeting of the committee, Libya put forward practical proposals to implement the remaining provisions of the Algeria agreement. For the Jamahiriyah, the problem with Chad has ended and the dispute over Aozou has been referred to the International Court of Justice. Therefore, it is not concerned in any way with what is going on inside Chad. It is an internal conflict between Chadian parties, and its causes and elements are known. What has probably disappointed the Chadian Government is the fact that it could not convince anyone with its claims and fabrications, so it has resorted to these kind of statements. It is no surprise to anyone and not new in its kind or nature.

Ben Bella Mediation With Al-Qadhdhafi Noted

LD2511141890 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] According to the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, Mr. Ben Bella left Algiers last Sunday for Libya where he undertook mediation between the leader of the Libyan revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and his second in command, Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, whose position is different from al-Qadhdhafi's on the Gulf crisis.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets 'Revolutionary' Leaders

LD2311203990 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution met today with revolutionary personalities and leaders from revolutionary and progressive countries, and members of the International Platform.

The meeting dealt with revolutionary matters and the consolidation of those countries' policies to protect and consolidate revolution in African and Latin American countries.

The meeting was also an opportunity to examine the role of those countries and some other progressive forces in the settlement of a number of regional conflicts, and the bringing about of peace in a number of world regions based upon a revolutionary and progressive vision which will serve the interests of those countries' peoples and the consolidation of their aspirations for peace and stability.

JANA Editor Says Thatcher 'Humiliated'

LD2311183590 Tripoli JANA in English 1624 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Tripoli, Al Harth [November] 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—JANA's international affairs editor commented on Thatcher's resignation by saying:

Thatcher has disappeared in the ropes of her policy and has fallen as she was trying to cling to [the] seat of power which itself was wormeaten. She was besieged by the problems of unemployment, inflation, finance and economic recession, strikes and demonstrations until what is known by "the iron lady" was turned into a structure of rusted scrap...which parts had fallen apart when touched.

On the internal level Thatcher was arrogant in the way that most ruthless executioners are. She made enemy for her the masses of the British people which backs she whipped with taxes, reduce to the minimum the social security services by allocating her social and economic policies to the limited income social sections of the British people placing them between the grinding stones the lightest of which turns bones into powder... [sentence as received]

That was one aspect of her internal policies.

On the external level, the most prominent aspect of her foreign policy was the absolute following of the U.S. resolution and full obedience to what they make. Thatcher was in this respect a humble obedient in a very astonishing way to all the observers. She did not disobey an order or reject a demand from the White House...as much her viciousness in confronting the waves of rejection and discontent from the British people inside, she was soft and denied - existence towards any resolution or a stance taken by America carrying a threat or an aggression or an invasion against others even if it led to the destruction of the whole world. [sentence as received]

The nations of Africa, Asia and Latin America - starting with the Palestine people and stretching to the people of

Great Jamahiriyah, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Grenada, Argentina, South Africa, Namibia, Nicaragua and Cuba store in the memories the stances of bias towards aggression Thatcher has assumed against those nations in support for policies to strike at the liberation will in them.

The people of Great Jamahiriyah does not forget that it was subjected to an American barbarous savage aggression in which Thatcher provided military support and political and media coverage for such aggression. More than that Thatcher was a culprit and a partner in the most horrific crime - to eliminate the life of the leader of the revolution and that of his [words indistinct] children. The people of Great Jamahiriyah, as it remembers that, has the right not to forget as the Arab people of Egypt has never forgotten the crime of Eden and Guy Mollet in 1956. Despite that, this people with its Arab and Islamic originality differentiates between the policy of an official in power and its relation with a nation...

We, as we witnessed the fall of what is called "the iron lady" are not moved by feeling of vengeance but are filled with the feeling of neglect and dropping towards her [as received] because we realize that committing a mistake against nations and siding by the positions of tyranny and aggression will have the consequence of tragic end for Thatcher the curtain has fallen on a chapter of a bloody drama in which the scenes showed Thatcher falling from the position of arrogant policy and hostility towards nations to the abyss of the well of forgetfulness.

There is no punishment more severe than what had Thatcher received...She was expelled in the worst possible way crying, kneeling, destroyed and humiliated.

Sandinista Leader Ortega Departs

LD2311202390 Tripoli JANA in English 1737 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Tripoli, al Harth [November] 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the Sandinista Front Daniel Ortega and delegation in his company this afternoon left Tripoli after a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

Morocco

Laraki Confers With Kuwaiti Fund Director

LD2411155390 Rabat MAP in English 1356 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Rabat, Nov 24 (MAP) Moroccan Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki Friday conferred with director of the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) Badr Machari al Homeidi [name as received] on means to reinforce cooperation between Morocco and the Kuwaiti Fund and intensify Kuwaiti investments in Moroccan development projects.

Badr Machari affirmed on the occasion the fund's will to respect its commitments vis-a-vis friendly countries despite the difficult circumstances Kuwait is going through.

A Kuwaiti delegation led by spokesman of the former National Assembly (parliament) Ahmed Saadoune [name as received] is to visit Morocco next December, QATARI NEWS AGENCY "ONA" reported.

The delegation is to confer with a number of Moroccan officials on the evolution of the Gulf crisis and the situation in Kuwait under Iraqi rule.

MAP Cites Saudi Press on Iraqi Envoy's Death

LD2411162990 Rabat MAP in English 1341 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 24 (MAP)—An Iraqi diplomat was found dead in his car near the Mehdia seaside-resort (30 km north of Rabat), said on Saturday the Saudi AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT daily, quoting informed sources.

Muhayyid Nouri Arab, adviser at the Iraqi Embassy here, was considered second in his country's diplomatic mission in Morocco. According to the daily's sources, Nouri might have been ordered to regain Baghdad [as received] but refused to do so and rented then an apartment in Rabat where he lived with his wife and three children.

No information has been disclosed as to the circumstances of his death. Some sources have however affirmed the diplomat was killed with a contusive arm. [as received] [AFP in English 1510 GMT 24 Nov in a similar report adds that the diplomat was found two days after leaving his home in Rabat.]

The daily also recalled the death of former Iraqi Information Secretary Chadhel Taka in mysterious circumstances in Rabat while taking part in a conference of Arab information secretaries.

The daily said Taka was considered one of President Saddam's opponents, adding the Iraqi opposition movement had accused then the Iraqi intelligence services of killing Taka by resorting to a sort of poison that provokes heart attacks, in an attempt to mask the official's death.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Denies Chadian Troops in Country

EA2511191290 Khartoum SUNA in English 1610 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 25 November (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], has denied the presence of chairman [as received] troops inside Sudan territory.

Commenting on security situation in Darfur region (western Sudan), Gen. al-Bashir (?noted no) Chadian opposition troops [word indistinct] (?commission) to its agreement with Sudan [words indistinct] and its attacks to Chadian territory.

The RCC chairman, who was speaking to press leaders, (?warned) that Sudan will never allow presence of any Chadian troops inside its territory, indicating that any Chadian [who] wants to enter Sudan must [words indistinct] (?arms) and live as refugee away from the common (?borders). Sudan has no interest in the ongoing Chadian conflict, he said.

Rebels Capture Ibba; 21 Government Soldiers Dead

EA2411194290 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] The strategic garrison town of Ibba in western Equatoria fell to the SPLA [Sudanese People Liberation Army] commando forces of the Bright Star campaign, phase three, sector two, in a lightning night attack. The garrison fell at 24 hours midnight, 23d of November 1990, that is, yesterday. SPLA forces are now in firm control of Ibba.

In the fighting, 21 enemy soldiers were killed and their bodies left behind on the battleground by the fleeing enemy. Many more soldiers were wounded, and the details of the capture of Ibba will follow as soon as they arrive at Radio SPLA.

Minister Says U.S. Travel Warning Unnecessary

AB2511082290 Paris AFP in English 0030 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 25 (AFP)—Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul on Saturday expressed astonishment at a U.S. State Department warning to Americans, which told them not to travel to Sudan because of large demonstrations there against the United States' role in the Gulf crisis. Mr. Sahlul said in a press statement that U.S. and other officials were well aware that life was normal in all parts of Sudan, and that the country had never been so stable and secure.

The minister said that Thursday's warning was unjustified, unnecessary and meaningless. He added that it had become clear that certain countries were deliberately unleashing rumours against Sudan. "We are aware that this undue behaviour is one form of the pressure being exercised on Sudan because of its unchanged position towards the Gulf crisis," Mr. Sahlul said. Sudan is one of the Arab League countries to have supported Iraq over its invasion of Kuwait.

The State Department warning said that although anti-U.S. demonstrations in Sudan were orderly, and kept under control by government security forces, "the situation could change quickly." The department said it was authorizing the voluntary departure of dependents of U.S. Government personnel in Khartoum and said "private citizens whose presence is not essential should consider leaving as well."

Commentary Says SPLA Uses Food as Weapon

EA2411120490 Khartoum National Unity Radio in English 1430 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] As you have just heard in the news, the attack on the food convoy, which was recently escorted by the People's Armed Forces to Malakal, was another indication that the outlaws have no sympathy whatsoever for the suffering of the civilians. The outlaws disregard the hunger-stricken civilians and would not hesitate to disrupt the food transportation as they always do, in order to starve the population. It has been the outlaws' tactics to use food as a weapon against civilians in rural as well as town areas. The SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] outlaws have proved themselves bankrupt and (?showed) that they have no cause for their [word indistinct] war which they are waging against the peaceloving people of the Sudan.

The gallant armed forces that have pledged to secure the transportation of food commodities to the people who are affected by hunger will still continue to carry out their task. It has been the habit of the People's Armed Forces to serve the people wherever they are, unlike the outlaws who are blood-thirsty and are after killings, torture, and humiliating the civilians. The atrocities which the outlaws are committing against the civilians show clearly the barbaric and the inhuman nature of the SPLA movement, which practices genocide and immorality.

By entering Malakal in the escort of food commodities, the troops of Wahdat al-Haq [unit of the truth] have demonstrated to the people that they are always at the service of the people because they are the People's Armed Forces that come from the people and (?work for the people).

Unity Radio Reacts to Rebel Radio 'Propaganda'

EA2511100490 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Nov 90

[From the "Behind the News" program]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, dear colleagues in arms everywhere: Our dear gallant brothers, the fighters in Equatoria military zone, may peace and the compassion of God be upon you. Let us examine Radio Nairobi's propaganda, so that we might be fully aware of the rebels' programs disseminated from their radio in Addis Ababa.

We all know that these radios only broadcast victories in the minds of the dwindling rebel forces, all of whose attempts to harm our soldiers stationed in various positions have failed. The Western media's frenzied attempts are not hidden to us. These attempts aim at creating false reports to support the alleged and defeated rebel actions. This is the information disseminated by BBC Radio, Radio Monte Carlo, and other negative and malicious radios which harbor ill feelings toward Sudan, its Arabism, and Islam.

Yesterday in a feeble transmission on Nairobi Radio in English, the radio alleged, through rebel mouths, that the rebels have overrun Bahr al [passage indistinct] in southwestern Sudan and that the rebels have called on the residents of Maridi and Yei to leave the towns. We, as popular armed forces, really do things. This is seen in the recent visit by the chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Ishaq Ibrahim 'Umar, who toured the Equatoria military zone for eight days. [passage omitted]

He addressed his soldiers on the sincerity of the leadership which stands beside the fighter in one trench, following him and living with him a life of salt and water, common destiny, and blood sacrificed by every soldier and fighter for the sake of Sudan and its (?free) choice to stand firm with all the citizens and provide them with information to diffuse the impact of the rebel radio and show its crooked way. For example, the Nairobi Church Radio is motivated by its religious sympathy and its malice toward Islam and Sudan. [passage omitted]

SPLA Appeals To Army Soldiers in Yei, Maridi

EA2311160490 (Clandestine) Radio of The Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Excerpts] It is important to note that on 14 September 1990, Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] broadcast an appeal to the junta's army commander in Yei, Brigadier PSC [passed staff college] Salah al-Din Muhammad al-Nil [name as heard] to make his military appreciation [as heard] either join the SPLA or withdraw to Zaire. In that broadcast we made it point blank that if the commander of Yei garrison and his soldiers choose to withdraw, the SPLA will give them safe passage to Zaire.

This appeal was not made out of nothing, but in consideration of the sufferings of the Sudanese soldiers in Yei, who have been isolated for more than six months without food or medicine. The only supply, which is never reliable, is dropped from the air. Some of these supplies sometimes fall to the SPLA soldiers or get damaged, and since the failure of Harb al-Suqur [War of the Falcons] to reinforce Yei last September, the military situation around Yei has changed. The SPLA have tightened their siege on Yei, and since the SPLA captured (Baraghulu) in Maridi District last September, and with the capture of Bahr Na'am this week, the military situation around Maridi has also changed [to being] even worse, according to our correspondent.

It is from here, and taking into consideration [by] the movement the feelings of those sons of Sudan who are deceived by the junta to fight the war that they do not know that we still appeal to the commander of Yei garrison, Brig. PSC Salah Muhammad al-Nil and to the commander of Maridi Garrison to make haste and leave both Yei and Maridi. [passage omitted] The commanders of Yei and Maridi should not forget that one of the junta's policies is to destroy the national army and to replace it with the fundamentalist Muslim brothers' army to carry out what the junta describes as Jihad, or Islamic holy war, against the Sudanese people.

So, one of the ways to destroy Sudan's national army is to send them to fight the SPLA, which has emerged as stronger, and who are in fact their own brothers fighting to liberate the country from all forms of injustice perpetrated by the sectarian regime. The other way for the junta to destroy the national army is to send them to the war front and forget about them.

So, it is fitting for one to suggest that the Sudanese soldiers in Yei and Maridi have been forgotten off [as heard] by the junta. They will only come to know you when you go to them in Khartoum or when you leave those garrisons to [go to] the destination of your own choice. We would like to remind the commanders of Yei and Maridi that the situation demands that you take quick action to save your own lives and the lives of those you command. Otherwise, time is running out and there will be nobody to blame except you. If you as commanders are indecisive or cannot decide, allow the soldiers to go. So many of your colleagues have withdrawn before, and they are now free. The earlier you decide, the better. Intransigence did not help the commanders of Keyala, Bor, and Nasir, who refused to heed to the SPLA's appeals and assurances of safe passage to them to pull out. Neither will intransigence help you. The choice is yours.

Government Criticized Over Railway Strike Actions

EA2411132890 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Confirming the broadcast by Radio Voice of Sudan stating that the government of the National Islamic Front [NIF] soldiers has dismissed and expelled thousands of railway workers after their recent strike, Transport Minister 'Ali Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahim has told AL-HAYAH, which is published in London, that the railway corporation has dispensed with the services of 3,000 workers in the corporation. The minister said that the decision resulted from reassessing the conditions of the railway corporation, in which the volume of employment had become disproportional to the real need for the number of workers. Our sources, however, say that the number of people dismissed amounts to 9,000 workers.

This measure has been taken against the trade unionist movement to threaten it with dismissal from service and expulsion of all workers who are demanding an improvement in their wages and changes in the simplest necessities of life, and who are standing up to the Front's leadership and its plans to liquidate the public sector and substitute its elements for the qualified and trained patriotic cadres.

Rebels Say Egyptian Extremists Trained in Sudan

EA2311114690 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Lieutenant General Yussef Sabri Abu Taleb, commander in chief of the Egyptian Armed Forces and Minister of Defense and Military Production, has announced that Egyptian border guard forces have succeeded in foiling two attempts to smuggle arms into Egypt from Sudan. He said the arms captured as the result of the two operations had amounted to 183 machine guns and 225 magazines all worth more than 1 million Sudanese pounds. The incidents took place on 24 and 25 October. The suspects were sent for interrogation.

Lt. Gen. Abu Taleb said Egypt would not permit any violation of its security and stability, nor any attempt to violate its borders. What is worth mentioning is that the National Islamic Front's military regime is training Egyptian extremists at camps in eastern Sudan, from where the extremists enter Egypt after completing their training. They are armed by means of smuggled weapons supplied to them by the front's military regime, sent over the border with Egypt, as happened in the latest two attempts, with the aim of committing acts of terrorism inside Egypt. Reports indicate that those who engaged in the implementation of the assassination of Rifat al-Mahjub, president of the Egyptian People's Assembly, last month, had been trained in Sudan.

Kenyan Paper's Allegation of Famine Denied

EA2311182690 Khartoum National Unity Radio in English 1430 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Sudan's embassy here [Nairobi] has denied the news report carried by Kenyan DAILY NATION that eleven million people are facing famine in Sudan. The embassy, in a statement issued yesterday, refuted the paper's allegation, saying that there was a food gap in the Sudan caused by the drought which hit some areas in the country besides the ongoing war in the southern parts of this country.

The statement, which was published in the same daily, the DAILY NATION, has enumerated the steps taken by the government to fill in the food gap by expanding the cultivated lands in the (?rural) rain-fed areas [words indistinct] and increasing additional 800,000 feddans to the irrigated areas. The government has also lifted the ban on sorghum movement inside the country and adopted a rationing system, the statement indicated.

The statement went on to confirm Sudan's adherence to the realisation of food self-sufficiency during the next year by expanding the wheat-cultivated areas [words indistinct]. It is not fair to accuse such a government of negligence, the statement adds. The embassy, replying to the DAILY NATION allegation, reviewed the statement of the representative of the FAO [Food and Agriculture Organization] in Sudan, who denied the existence of famine in the Sudan.

On the United Nations-sponsored operation, (?Operation) Lifeline Sudan, the statement noted that Sudan and the UN signed an agreement regarding the starting of the Operation Lifeline, second phase. It further explained Sudan's stance towards the Gulf crisis, which called for an inter-Arab solution for the problem, adding that condemnation would not solve the problem. The statement rules out Sudan's support to the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq and recognizes the legitimacy and sovereignty of Kuwait. Sudan is committed to all the UN Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis, the statement affirmed.

It criticised the paper for (?echoing) [words indistinct] initiated by the foreign circles who are hostile to Sudan by publishing such (?news) to describe the country's position towards the Gulf crisis.

Request Made For Aid For Southern Refugees

EA2311123090 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Nov—(SUNA) His excellency Mr. Pio Yukwan, Revolution Command Council member and (?chairman) of the relief and refugees [word indistinct]), has called on the representatives of Sudanese and foreign volunteer organizations to hasten to provide drinking water, health, and educational services to the southerners residing in the northern regions, particularly those residing in the national capital, for humanitarian reasons. This emerged today when he met with a number of the representatives of the Sudanese and foreign volunteer organizations, when he reviewed the conditions of the displaced people with them. His excellency called on (?them) to expedite the provision of blankets and clothes to the displaced to (?prepare them) for the approaching winter season.

Deputy RCC Chairman Leaves for Mbabane Summit

EA2311164090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and of the Council of Ministers, left for Swaziland this morning at the head of Sudan's delegation, which is participating in the summit of the heads of state of the Preferential Trade Area for southern and east African states.

The summit will discuss resolutions concerning a common market giving preference to trade exchange between the states of the area, which were approved by the finance ministers of these states. The summit will also discuss a financial system for dealing with differences which arise concerning payments in the field of trade.

RCC Member Receives Kuwaiti Delegation

EA2411115090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Yesterday Brigadier 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and chairman of the Political Committee, received a delegation of Kuwaiti organizations at his office. Members of the delegation briefed his excellency on the living conditions in Kuwait. Brig. 'Uthman explained to the members of the delegation Sudan's concern for the return of legitimacy to the State of Kuwait and the need for efforts to unite the Arab ranks to reach an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

Former Officers To Face Trial

EA2311122090 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Nov (SUNA)—The accused Fathi Ahmad Ali, former commander in chief, former Deputy Chief of the General Staff 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad Sa'id, former Chairman of the Security Bureau al-Hadi Bushra,and Colonel [name indistinct], have been notified through the Foreign Ministry to appear before the court, being charged with high treason, sedition, and rebellion. Professor ('Uthman al-Shaykh), the investigation supervisor of the aforementioned case told SUNA that if the accused failed to appear, an absentia tribunal would be formed. His excellency appealed to the citizens to inform the investigation of any information regarding the possessions of the accused [word indistinct], concerning any of the 50 (?plots) which had been seized. He pointed out that the investigation had recently impounded the possessions of the accused in accordance with the charges preferred against them [words indistinct].

Tunisia

Iraqi Minister Addresses Nonaligned Conference

JN2311184390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Iraq has called on nonaligned and Third World countries to play a greater role at this delicate stage to lay the foundations for good and fair relations in the international community based on the principle of integration and balance to entrench the pillars of peace and security throughout the whole world. Umid Midhat Mubarak, labor and social affairs minister and head of the Iraqi delegation to the fourth conference of labor ministers of the Nonaligned Movement countries held in Tunis, warned in his speech of the dangers in the crisis facing international order because of U.S. attempts to impose absolute hegemony over the world and to employ it in the service of its interests.

The Iraqi minister said that the American invasion of the Arabian Gulf and Peninsula has confirmed how real these dangers are, because the United States has carried out its scheme, which it prepared a long time ago before the return of Kuwait to the motherland, Iraq. He asserted that Iraq wanted to abide by the principle of dialogue in dealing with the issue within the framework of a comprehensive and fair solution to all issues in the Arab region on an equal footing as declared by leader President Saddam Husayn on 12 August.

The labor and social affairs minister stated that the issues of the Arab region are interconnected in an objective way that cannot be made separate, particularly the issue of the Palestinian people's self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their historical land under the leadership of the PLO.

Iraq has said that the big challenges facing the nonaligned and developing countries must be confronted to overcome the backwardness from which they have been suffering for a long time and to enjoy accelerated progress.

Umid Midhat Mubarak described the Security Council resolution to impose an unjust blockade on Iraq to starve its people and children and to expose their lives to the risk of death as a flagrant violation of international legitimacy and international charters and laws, particularly the 1949 Geneva Convention and its addendum, and the 1989 agreement on children's rights, both of which forbid depriving children of medicine and food.

The labor and social affairs minister recalled Iraq's proposal to the 1979 nonaligned summit in Havana to establish a world fund to help developing countries confront the effects of inflation to be financed by the increase in oil prices and by the inflation the industrial countries exported to the developing countries [as heard].

Iraq called on the nonaligned to openly and unequivocally sanction countries that had a bias in favor of the United States, countries that effectively helped it to control oil sources and the region.

The fourth conference of the nonaligned labor ministers opened yesterday with the participation of 81 countries and nine international organizations. The conference will last four days.

United Arab Emirates

Pakistani Prime Minister Sharif Arrives 23 Nov

JN2311214790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2130 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Nov (WAKH)—Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening along with a delegation for an official two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates.

The welcoming party was led by Vice President and Prime Minister Shaykh Maktum Ibn-Rashid Al Maktum, and by Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

Yemen

Salih Reports 'Disparity' in Views With Baker

JN2311205790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2002 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Radio London tonight conducted a live interview with brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council. The interview was aired on Radio London tonight.

When asked how he assesses his talks with the U.S. secretary of state, the brother Presidential Council chairman said that the talks were largely positive, particularly regarding ties between Yemen and the United States. He added that there was a disparity in views regarding the Gulf crisis. He said that Yemen's view of the crisis is clear. He also said that Yemen has been consistently seeking a peaceful solution and not resorting to the military option, because the foreign presence in the region has complicated the problem.

The brother Presidential Council chairman declared that there is room for a peaceful solution. He added that the big powers—namely, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council—should make efforts with well-intentioned parties to reach a peaceful solution. Efforts must be made to attain such a solution so that all parties can come out of this crisis saving face, he said. He added: There is no reason for escalation and threats to use military force. Any explosion will be a catastrophe for all countries of the region and the world.

The brother Presidential Council chairman asserted that our country will continue to try to make a contribution toward a peaceful solution to secure the return of Kuwait and the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and of foreign troops from the region, and to ensure that the problem that was the reason behind the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait will be discussed within an Arab framework. He added: Yemen has not been biased. It is a country that seeks to achieve peace and spare the region the adverse consequences of destruction and war. This is Yemen's perspective. We made this clear to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. We also made it clear to Britain, the USSR, and all other states. We are proud of our principled and firm position which will remain unchanged. He pointed out that all would be losers with no victors if a war were to break out.

On the return of Yemeni expatriates from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait who sustained immense losses, the brother Presidential Council chairman said that Yemen had received 817,000 Yemenis who are being given good care. We are making efforts to deal with these losses on a national level.

Al-Iryani Details Crisis Position, Use of Force

JN2411124290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1210 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Telephone interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by unidentified reporter from Amman on 24 November—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Could you explain to us Yemen's position as conveyed to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker?

[Al-Iryani] Regarding Yemen's position, it was explained in detail to the U.S. secretary of state; this position is that Yemen insists on solving the crisis through peaceful means and dialogue within an Arab framework. He was informed that Yemen does not approve the principle of using force at all and it cannot support any resolution in the Security Council that has anything to do with using force to solve this crisis.

[Reporter] Foreign Minister, you recently returned from a visit to Tehran. Could you talk to us about this visit and the Iranian point of view, as you understood it, regarding the Gulf crisis?

[Al-Iryani] Regarding my visit to Tehran, it was arranged a long time ago, because the end of the war between Iraq and Iran provided us with the opportunity to resume relations—or, in fact, relations were never broken—and to continue or return to normal relations, joint coordination, and cooperation in economic, scientific, technical, and political issues. Therefore, this was the first meeting of the joint committee that we had agreed to form with Iran a few months ago.

It was an appropriate opportunity to discuss the issues in the region and joint issues between us and the brothers in Iran. In my estimation—I cannot speak on behalf of the Iranian Government—in my opinion, I believe that they are also hoping for a peaceful solution within the Arab framework and that they are very worried about the new policies calling for the use of force. Undoubtedly, regarding this issue, we agree that the crisis could and must be solved peacefully to guarantee the rights, security, and safety of all sides.

Saddam To Release Some Foreign Nationals

Relatives of U.S. Families

JN2611154290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1505 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has stressed that Iraq is seeking peace because the Iraqis know how to build things well and are proving this now, just as they proved it 6,000 years ago. He added, however, we do not seek peace only for ourselves, but for all mankind. The people who need peace most, under their own independent state, are the Palestinians.

During a meeting with a group of American families that came to visit their relatives in Iraq, the leader president said: While talking about the world order after the end of the cold war, the U.S. Administration will create new hostile forces because U.S. policy has been too hasty in making the United States play the role of world policeman. U.S. officials have given themselves the role of international policeman, with a heavy club and thick moustache.

Leader President Saddam Husayn explained that the main thing is that the state, which God has honored with great resources, should seek to be loved by others. He said: Love can achieve the greatest things in life, and love—not hatred or the use of, or threats to use the thick club—connects man with his God.

On the occasion of their visit to Iraq, leader President Saddam Husayn has given the order to allow the American families to take with them their relatives now in Iraq. The president said: From now on, you will have additional rights above the rights of the owners of the house, and without removing any of your other rights, including the freedom to travel. If you feel that hospitality has to come to an end, you can travel to the United States of America, or anywhere else in the world at a time you deem appropriate.

UK Wives' Husbands

NC2411225490 Baghdad Iraqi Republic Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Statements by President Saddam Husayn and UK national Mrs. Goodwin during meeting with other unidentified visiting UK wives and their hostage husbands, over securing the husbands' release; date, place not given—recorded, with Saddam's statements in Arabic and Mrs. Goodwin's statements in English, followed by passage by passage translation into English and Arabic, respectively; Saddam's statements are translated from the Arabic, and Mrs. Goodwin's are transcribed from English; passages in boldface indicate passages audible in translation that differ from source language; passages in quotes indicate passages supplied from translation when source language is indistinct]

[Text] [Saddam] I am glad to meet with you here in Baghdad. I would have been more pleased if the meeting had taken place under different circumstances. Nevertheless, sometimes when acquaintances are made in difficult circumstances, they are made strong. What is of interest to us is that human relations should always be founded on love and mutual cooperation. What best reveals this human situation in its true sense, not its fake sense, is that what one wants or hopes for himself he also wants and hopes for humanity, regardless of people's color, nationality, language, race, or religion.

Circumstances such as this one have been difficult for the Iraqis, because anything which is high in value is being threatened now, beginning with our people's sanctities. In our view, our sanctities in the Arabian Peninsula, in Holy Mecca, are being humiliated. As you know, the tomb of Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, is also in Saudi Arabia. Never before in the history of this place have invading troops come, except 15 centuries ago when Abraha of Abyssinia wanted to occupy Mecca. He incited God's wrath, and God threw stones of fire at his army to repulse them. This led the armies of Abraha to return defeated, and his story has become a story to remember throughout history. By chance, one Arab man led the armies of Abraha toward Mecca because they did not know how to get there. For the 15 centuries since then, when the Arabs wanted to describe the treason of someone in the strongest words—and this is what the Muslims do everywhere when they want to describe the treason committed by someone among them in the strongest terms—they would point to the person and say that he is as much of a traitor as Abu Rughad **the name of the man who led, who guided, the armies of Abraham to Mecca.** Through this example—and I do not want to burden you with a great deal of historical details—you can see the burdening effect of invading armies on the land of sanctities in the Arabian Peninsula. The effect is even greater when the declared objective of these armies is the invasion of Iraq. This is coupled with withholding of food, medicine, and even babies' milk from Iraq. This, as all know, is prohibited even for prisoners of war. In war, when a prisoner is taken, he is provided with food and medical care. But food and medicine have been withheld from Iraq. Nevertheless, those who made this decision still talk about humanitarian aspects. They regard humanity as exemplified by Jabir [the amir of Kuwait], who has 70 women and personal wealth of $60 billion, according to figures given by the media in Britain and the United States.

Therefore, humanity is really being insulted through these hastily made decisions, which are vague in their objectives on the human level and clear in their evil objectives. We are sorry to have had to keep your husbands—and my words are directed to the ladies—and to have prevented them from traveling. This is not a decision which was based on choice or the existence of other alternatives, but a decision which we made under duress in a situation like the one we are in. As an expression by us, by the leadership, and by our people—an expression of true human values in which we believe—and out of respect for women everywhere, because here in Iraq we have particular respect for women as Iraqi women have always played a very important national role, a role that goes very much essentially, in one way or another, with another example that was set by British women during World War II—out of respect for all this, when we learned of the desire of these ladies to meet with us and their wish to accompany their husbands back to Britain, and we want to tell them and we want to tell the British people that our problem is not with the people but with the policy, and preventing you from traveling is not because it is our wish, but is one of the means to prevent a greater calamity from taking place. [sentence as heard] For this reason, we have decided to receive you so that we can see you, and therefore, we have decided to let you accompany your husbands back to Britain with our best wishes that you will arrive safely.

But I am unhappy with you, because I was told that you have a child who you did not bring with you now. I think that the children of Iraq will also be unhappy with you because they have a special place "in my mind." When they hear that there was a child with you who was not brought along here, they are going to be unhappy. You are welcome.

[Mrs. Goodwin] We would like to thank you, Mr. President, for the great honor of letting us come here today. We would like to say that we are a private group of women who decided to come to Iraq on a mission of peace. And before we left Great Britain, we found that we have so many people supporting us, just the other women and the ordinary people in the street who supported this mission of ours. And because of this tremendous support we had just from ordinary people, we feel that we as women can do something towards working towards a peaceful mission in the Middle East. Particularly as women, we feel it's within our hands to try and protect a safe future for our children, our children's children, and coming generations. We hope we can put this message across. We also would like to say that with us coming here, apart from the "great" support we had, we also had a lot of criticism from our government and other people who tried to dissuade us from coming to Iraq.

[Saddam] Have you noticed how some are trying to remove the spotlight to prevent it from uncovering the truth?

[Mrs. Goodwin] Yes, yes.

[Saddam] Why do they not allow people to see things as they are? Why do they prevent wives or families from seeing their relatives on such holy occasions?

[Mrs. Goodwin] Well, not being politicians or diplomats, we didn't realize what people getting into. But a lot of things are very clear to us now, and particularly with your gesture of what you've just allowed us to take our husbands home. This is the best thing that could possibly silence our critics. Because, as far as we were concerned, we received nothing but excellent hospitality and good wishes from the Iraqis. But from a certain sector of people in our own country, we feel that they were hoping our mission will fail. We are now overjoyed by what you have done and what you have said. And I think that this is the best way of putting over what we really came for, peace, and this shows that the people of the Middle East think the same as we do. We will go back, and we will not forget Iraq and the people here. Just because you let us take our husbands with us, we will still spread the word of peace and we will still urge other countries, as well, to work towards a peaceful solution, because most of us in this group sincerely believe that this crisis in the Middle East has ultimately to be solved by the Arab people themselves. And this can be done through peace and not war. And we thank you very, very much for what you've said.

[Saddam] "The words expressed by Mrs. Goodwin" increase our conviction that peoples can quickly reach understanding with each other if certain technicalities are put aside. Therefore, when this lady said that she is not a diplomat, "it gives me pleasure to hear it." I think if you were a diplomat, we would be far from each other. This is because some diplomats in certain countries "try to fish in troubled waters when they speak." A human being should speak what is in his heart and mind. "We here in Iraq are people who desire no evil or war," but we will not relinquish our rights. Inasmuch as other peoples have their dignity, the Iraqi people have theirs too. "We believe that peace must prevail everywhere and not in one or in this or that part of the world." If it is desired that the Security Council resolutions be implemented, "we say that in order for these resolutions and for the desire to implement them to appear as not emanating from temporary or short-lived political considerations, considerations that are based on the objectives behind their particular and isolated situation and nothing else," all Security Council resolutions must be implemented.

Despite the fact that the events of 2 August have their own background, the most fair-minded person in Britain was Mr. Heath when he said that his own pen and not Iraqi desire drew Kuwait as the political entity that it later came to be before 2 August. He was speaking in this sense when he spoke of borders or the so-called borders. You see how in his talk, Mr. Heath was close to the humanitarian meanings in which we believe, although at one time he was the prime minister of Britain. But his pen was not human. Therefore, we have no problem with the human being even when he is in power. For instance, at present, now that Mrs. Thatcher has resigned, we have no problem with her because she is an ordinary human being. Our problem had been with her **political positions and** her words. It was what she wrote and said that harmed us. We may become friends with her in time, when she discovers that her words were **wrongly used**. Thus you will see that we are close to other people and the other people are close to us when they are not in a position to decide to harm. All humanity is one family worshiping God, "the one and only." Human beings will be graced by God when they do not segregate peoples on the basis of race, color, creed, or nationality except when they follow a creed denying the existence of God.

"Dialogue is the course for understanding." Certain parties refused to hold a dialogue with Iraq. They say why should they have a dialogue with Iraq, that Iraq should implement this and that. Iraq recalls that it offered humanity a 6000-year-old contribution. Iraq taught mankind the alphabet and writing. It taught humanity laws some 4500 years ago. Iraq taught humanity how to establish a balanced relatisnhip between rights and duties and between one right and another. Iraq, therefore, will not accept being treated with double standards. Iraq is part of the Arab nation, and its people know in great detail how the Palestinian people are being treated. They know in detail the Palestinians' suffering and how their dignity is being demeaned and their sanctities desecrated in the land occupied by the Zionists. Iraq knows that Palestine and Jerusalem are under occupation, and that the Golan Heights and part of Lebanon are under occupation. All this was done by Israel. Iraq also knows that hundreds of resolutions were endorsed on these issues but have not been honored. We all, Arabs and non-Arabs, Muslims and Christians, see children, women, and old people killed daily in Palestine. We all see how the Palestinians are tortured and humiliated over and above the fact that their own land is being usurped. Those who pass these resolutions against Iraq do not consider that this kind of behavior harms humanity. They consider the overthrow of corrupt rulers who usurped power, betrayed their homeland, carved off part of it and imposed themselves as rulers—they consider standing by these people as humanitarian. They do not consider it to be humanitarian to stand by those in the Dome of the Rock. Are these not double standards and a scandal in relation to the principles certain people in the West speak about, principles of freedom and human rights?

"How can a man dying of disease be deprived of the medicine that can save his life? How can a whole people be starved through this blockade?" This is an act of war. As I said, even prisoners of war are not deprived of food. Despite this, we still have hope in people, and not in those who misuse their words or in politicans in power. From here, ladies and gentlemen, the Iraqi people view all other people as friends, including the American people who make up the bulk of the armies and fleets that have come to our area. We respond to dialogue and to human relations, but we do not fear fleets or threats. The people who have a 6,000-year-old civilization behind them, and who believe in one God will not fear threats, fleets, aircraft, or tanks. All they have to do is to ask themselves one specific question: Are they right or wrong? If the answer is that they are right, they should not fear any blame. The Iraqi people believe that they are right. The Iraqi people are convinced that if they could have a dialogue with all foreign peoples, only a few people would be against them.

Certain leaders in some Western countries, regrettably, take account of public opinion only when their political position is threatened. This is evidence that they do not respect higher humanitarian values, "because whoever refrains from taking a decision only when it threatens his position," does not have a sound criterion for his humanity. The right criterion of his humanity is that when he believes in the views of the majority in his country, he should also respect the views of the majority in other countries.

Now that you all, men and women, can travel to your countries, if you think it is convenient for you, you can stay a little longer to see how the Iraqi people think. Ask the people and mix with them. Ask them about anything that might cross your mind, so that you may see whether these people truly believe they are right or not. We maintain that peace must prevail throughout our region.

The criteria must be uniform in measuring all the different issues. If a peaceful solution is what we seek, then all the issues must be resolved. At that time, the primary issue to be solved must be that of Palestine, so that its oppressed people can be liberated. You have now seen part of how the burden can be great when it is against your will. You can thus measure the situation against all other humanitarian issues. **In view of this feeling you may be able to judge for yourselves the kind of feeling that exists among ourselves.** Your husbands had been banned from travel until this moment when we allowed them to travel. You were depressed, they were depressed, and we as well were depressed. **You suffered from this, they suffered from this and we suffered from this.** What then of an entire people who are banned from travel. There are 18 million Iraqis banned from travel. How can they travel when they have no money to travel and when their planes are not allowed to travel? Strict restrictions have been imposed by certain countries on our planes. Our planes are allowed [to land], and the restrictions are reduced, only when they transport foreign guests from Iraq. However, in their normal flights, they are faced with restrictions. Among these restrictions, our airlines are required to pay immediately for fuel and airport services. Even the funds which had been available to the Iraqi Government in banks have been restricted by known piracy. **But even the money belonging to the Iraqi Government in foreign banks have now been frozen.** What of a people who are being killed, tortured, and deprived of their land? By this I mean the people of Palestine. When people are killed in **the Holy Mosque of** Jerusalem, the UN Security Council handles the issue very lightly. Nonetheless, Israel rejects the UN Security Council resolution. But fleets and armies do not go there, and we hear no impudent statements from the rulers of major countries and superpowers, which threaten because of Israel's abstention from applying the UN Security Council resolution. **And we see no voices being raised against Israel for its failure to implement these resolutions—the voices which are being raised against us by certain powers in the West.** Is this the humanitarian world which you and every honest citizen wants? A world in which hypocrisy goes to these excesses, and which sees such injustice without moving a finger?

We want all to be free. All are capable of making the decision which represents their views, regardless of the country's population or its military capabilities. Is it acceptable for America, just because it has sophisticated weapons, to imagine that it must impose its will on the people? If you look at the television, you will see how the President of the most powerful nation on Earth, in terms of material capabilities, changes his decisions and objectives every now and then, adding a new objective or a new justification for the presence of his forces in the region every day.

In the past three days, what did he say? He said that they had discovered that Iraq is in the process of developing its own nuclear bomb. They insinuated that this is one of the justifications for using military force against Iraq. Why did he not say this, for example, when he made the decision to send troops to Saudi Arabia? He then said he sent troops there to protect Saudi Arabia against invasion.

This is only part of the injustice to which Arabs, and Palestinians and the Iraqis in particular, are subjected. Therefore, ladies and gentelemen, we see that Iraq's stand today is one which defends the collective human values, and not only the national values. The sacrifices made by the Iraqi people are not only for their nationalist values, but also for the sake of the general human values, so that they may be respected. We will not be truly human as Arabs, and at the universal level, unless the Palestinian people are liberated and until Holy Jerusalem is liberated. I thank you for listening to me, although I have troubled you with politics, which is complicated in certain areas. I know because the lady said she is not a diplomat. I can probably appreciate that some of you are not politically oriented. I wish you happiness and a safe return to your countries.

Italian Nationals

JN2411174590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received Archbishop Hilarion Capucci, the archbishop of Jerusalem in exile, and the delegation accompanying him which includes individuals working in peace organizations and cultural and social services in Italy.

Archbishop Capucci addressed President Saddam Husayn at the beginning of the meeting and said: Mr. President, you are in my heart and mind and in the heart and mind of every Arab. You have given us pride and dignity. We pray and ask God, the Almighty, to protect and support you.

Archbishop Capucci added: The Arabs were attempting to realize strategic parity. This has been turned upside down today and the enemies of the Arabs are now looking for strategic parity with Iraq. Therefore, the Arab nation has a ray of hope that victory will be on its side.

President Saddam Husayn welcomed Archbishop Capucci and his delegation, and said he was happy to meet them. The president said he highly appreciated the support the members of the delegation are providing to the Palestinian people and their just struggle through their societies. His excellency said: Our humanitarian assets are present among the people because God the Almighty, as we believe, finds that people as a majority are close to him—not so the rulers—since the humanitarian feelings among people are essential for them to determine their steps and behavior.

His excellency added: Unfortunately, rulers in general are not close to God, the Almighty. Otherwise, how else can we interpret this silence over the crimes Israel is committing in Palestine and Jerusalem, even inside al-Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem. On top of this, there is preventing food and medicine from reaching the people of Iraq.

President Saddam Husayn declared that the Palestinians had been oppressed for more than 40 years, that their humanity, sanctities, and nationalism had been harmed, and that nothing sacred to them has been spared the Zionist entity's insults.

His excellency said: We as Arabs have been oppressed a great deal as a result of what happened in Palestine; that part of the oppression was due to the overall oppression against Palestine. We were oppressed twice: First when we were subjected to oppression as an Arab nation because of what happened to Palestine. Second with the plans drawn up by the evildoers, foremost of whom are the Zionists who do not want any voice to call for things going back to what they should be. They want to maintain the current tragic situation. When such a voice is raised, it is stabbed and conspired against.

The president reasserted that dialogue is the best way to achieve the best goal. He said that those who reject dialogue take a position in conflict with what is right. They also show arrogance and disdain for the other side.

His excellency added: However, Almighty God helped us and enabled us to remain balanced in dealing with that type of arrogant policy and position. We are eager to hold a dialogue based on our respect for peoples and for the sound humanitarian way represented by dialogue.

Commenting on the behavior and policy of some rulers and officials, President Saddam Husayn said: Is not it contradictory that these rulers have accepted dialogue within their peoples [as heard] and rejected it with other peoples? What does this mean in our view? He said: This position means that these rulers do not believe in dialogue as a good way of life and as a good way to reach what is right, and that they use dialogue with their people to retain power because if they reject dialogue with their people, they will not remain in power.

The president voiced surprise at some Western countries' attitudes, which contradict the slogans and values they claim to be defending, and said: Is it not shameful for the West to come with its armies to reinstate a ruler who has more than 70 women and who has a personal fortune of $60 billion for which he did not sweat but seized from the wealth of the people and nation? Does this not conflict with Western values? Why direct them against Iraq and the Arab nation?

Some of the delegation members spoke and said they were pleased to meet with the president. They stressed that they came to Iraq convinced and feeling very deeply that the war is opposed not only by millions of Italians but also by all the people of Europe.

They added: We try to link the causes of peace with stability in the Mediterranean in general and the Middle East in particular. They stressed that they were convinced of the need to overcome all difficulties and problems in order to sit at the table of dialogue. They termed the president's 12 August initiative as a serious and constructive one in the attainment of peace.

Archbishop Capucci asked President Saddam Husayn to allow some Italian nationals to leave with him and his delegation when they departed Iraq. The president responded to this request and agreed to allow a large number of Italians to leave Iraq in appreciation of Archbishop Capucci and his status, as well as the humanitarian efforts the members of the delegation were making on behalf of the Palestinian people's struggle and the children of Palestine through their societies.

Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim attended the meeting.

105 Germans Depart

JN2511152190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] In implementation of leader President Saddam Husayn's order allowing the German nationals, guests of the Iraqi people, to leave or stay in Iraq, as they wish, a special Iraqi plane left Baghdad at noon today carrying 105 German nationals, guests of the Iraqi people.

In statements to INA before leaving, they expressed their appreciation for the care they were given throughout their stay as guests of the Iraqi people. They added that they will be real peace messengers by replying to allegations spread by Western media to distort Iraq's true humanitarian positions and its firm desire to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Wife of US 'Guest' Sends Thank-you Letter

JN1711161190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received a message of thanks and gratitude from the wife of an American national hosted by the Iraqi people, thanking him for the care and good treatment accorded to her husband and all guests in Iraq. The message reads as follows:

I am sending this letter, hoping that you and your family are fine. I am writing you to thank you for the good care that you have been giving to your guests.

I have received a letter from my husband, William Van Droup [name as received], in which he says that he is being given good care and good food and that he enjoys swimming three km every day.

I am an African woman from Cameroon. I met my husband when he was working in my country as a volunteer in the Peace Corps. In Cameroon, I was brought up among Muslim neighbors and friends. I have known them to be friendly and honorable people.

My husband, William Van Droup, left for Kuwait on a one-year contract to teach English. He left me alone with our five children in Fort Wayne, because we were in dire need of money.

Once again, I would like to thank you for the good care that you have given to my husband and also for the calls addressed to us and to our family members to visit at Christmas. I am awaiting your generous invitation. May God bless you.

Sincerely yours

Helen Van Droup,

C. Fort Wayne, Indiana,

46806, Philadelphia [address as received]

Saddam Reportedly Executes Seven Senior Advisers

PM2311150390 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 18 Nov 90 p 1

[Khalid 'Ali al-Matrafi report: "Thursday Before Last Saddam Husayn Executed Seven of His Senior Advisers"]

[Text] AL-MADINAH has learned from the latest report arriving from Iraq that the Thursday before last [8 November] the Iraqi regime executed seven senior advisers to the Iraqi Revolution Command Council. The seven are: Tanab al-Saghri, Dhiyab Nabhan, Sab'awai Ibrahim Hasan, Muhammad Mazid, Khudayr Fulayh al-Zydi, 'A'id Khasbak, and Hisham Tawfiq al-Rukabi.

The report emphasizes that the seven were executed in very mysterious circumstances, and the person who took charge of their execution was 'Ali Hasan 'Abd-al-Majid, whom Saddam Husayn had appointed governor in Kuwait only subsequently to reassign him to an important post in the Iraqi presidential palace. Reports say that about three senior officers were executed in Kuwait recently.

Furthermore, Iraqi Oil Minister Husayn Kamil Hasan, Mr. Fawzi al-Mashhadani, Engineer Kamal Yusuf al-'Ani, Engineer Rida Nu'man al-Kawwaz, and a number of experts held a lengthy meeting at a chemical plant in the Fattah Basha area. The meeting was attended by a number of Iraqi military commanders. The meeting was held on the day following the oil minister's assumption of his post. The Fattah Basha plant, situated in the Makhazin al-Shabi area [as published] east of Baghdad, is a major plant producing, in addition to chemicals, poisonous gases, which last year killed more than four people and resulted in over 25 poisoning cases. That plant is run by Engineer Rida Nu'man al-Kawwaz.

Beirut Muslim Group Says 4500 Arrested in Iraq

NC2511160390 Paris AFP in English 1542 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Beirut, Lebanon Nov 25 (AFP)—Iraq has arrested 4,500 opposition Muslim fundamentalists for criticising the regime of President Saddam Husayn, a fundamentalist movement said here Sunday.

Leaflets were distributed in schools in Baghdad and other Iraqi cities in November "denouncing decisions that served as a pretext to the dispatch of foreign troops" to the region earlier this month, the underground Superior Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq said.

The leaflets were distributed by "elite units of lion cubs", the Council said in a communique issued in Beirut. It said those arrested faced the death sentence under Iraq's anti-terrorist legislation which bans the distribution of leaflets and anti-government statements.

The council called on all international organizations to "move rapidly to save the lives of those detained".

On Saturday the Iraqi Government denied a report by the official U.S. radio station Voice of America (VOA) according to which violence in several Iraqi schools had been inspired by protests against the occupation of Kuwait, and could have involved killings. [passage omitted]

Eight Girls Said Killed in Kuwaiti Act of Revenge

AU2411190990 Vienna Television Service in German 1830 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Eyewitnesses who were able to leave Iraq reported acts of revenge by the Kuwaiti resistance in Baghdad. Reportedly, eight girls were killed in a school in the Iraqi capital. A message left behind by the perpetrators said: We struck in revenge for the children of Kuwait.

School Children Arrested After Disturbances

AFP Cites Iraqi TV

NC2411234390 Paris AFP in English 2236 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Nicosia, Nov 24 (AFP)—The Iraqi government on Saturday denied a report by the official U.S. radio station Voice of America (VOA) according to which violence in several Iraqi schools was inspired by protests against the occupation of Kuwait, and could have involved killings.

The statement, carried by the official INA news agency, came shortly after Iraqi television showed 11 boys and two girls, all aged between 10 and 16 whom it said police had arrested because they had sowed terror in schools under the name of the "Black Hand."

Reacting to the U.S. media reports, the government denied that the gang's actions had been political, or related to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

Such suggestions were "lies propagated by mercenary media, which are truly comical," the statement said. The Iraqi government "regrets that these media had resorted to distorting the facts," the statement said.

The television report said that the "Black Hand" gang had threatened to kidnap and kill other children. However it stressed that no crimes had been committed.

The group had recently "sowed panic in several primary schools, where they distributed leaflets, wrote slogans on walls and telephoned people to provoke them," the report said.

It quoted the adolescents as confessing they had threatened "to kidnap other children in order to kill them." They had used the blood of a bird to mark their black hand emblem on the walls of schools and homes.

The television report called on the population "not to spread rumours and not to exaggerate the actions of these children, against whom legal measures have been taken."

Citing the Interior Ministry, Iraqi newspapers had reported earlier that the adolescents had been arrested. But it gave no details on the contents of their leaflets or the graffiti.

Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab "intervened personally" and has asked police to deploy more efforts "to contain nests of delinquency," according to the newspaper reports.

The reported troubles were the first of their kind to be reported in Iraq since President Saddam Husayn sent his armies into Kuwait on August 2.

Editor Refutes Reports

JN2411222190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2146 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Nov (INA)—INA's local affairs editor has ridiculed what VOA and some of its mercenary media trumpets reported this evening, that a number of adolescents had been arrested for carrying out subversive acts and creating disturbances and that these adolescents were accused of killing students to avenge Kuwait's invasion and occupation.

In his commentary, the editor says: This fabricated news distributed by those trumpets do not only invite ridicule, but they in fact make a laughingstock of the trumpets that fabricate such reports and headline them. They also invite regret that such a forgery should be fabricated and the facts distorted.

The editor adds: The fact of the matter is that which has been announced by a source at the Interior Ministry who said that the matter concerns "a number of adolescents fooling around, whose actions led to the childish behavior of a small number of elementary school students who passed note to their friends, scribbled on walls, or made taunting phone calls."

The editor asks: Don't the most hideous and heinous crimes exist in the American and British societies, not only among adolescents, but also among adults and all classes of society, including the politicians? The best proof of what we are saying is the realistic articles and stories published by their media which are hard to believe, although they do represent a horrible reality in these societies, which are used to and support crime.

Concluding, the INA local affairs editor says: The Iraqi people—children, adult men and women, and old people—are people of virtue, values, and civilization, who immediately after this kind of childish action takes place, bring the situation out into the open and the society itself brings these actions to the attention of the security organs, which take care of the citizens' security, comfort, and happiness. Do security and stability exist in Western societies? We leave the answer to America's news media and their trumpets.

Defense Ministry Directorate Calls Up Reservists

JN2311142590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1340 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] The Mobilization and Statistics Directorate at the Defense Ministry has issued Communique No. 4 of 1990. The following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Communique No. 4 of 1990 issued by the Mobilization and Statistics Directorate at the Defene Ministry:

1. Based on Clause C of Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Article 15 of Amended Military Service Law No. 65 of 1969, it has been decided to call up reservists from among those born in 1958, 1959, and 1960, and only those who are under arms [musallahin], to serve in the army.

2. Those who are in the country should report to their centers within three days; those who are outside the country should report within 15 days, as follows:

A. Those who were born in 1960 from 27 November 1990 to 29 November 1990.

B. Those who were born in 1959 from 30 November 1990 to 2 December 1990.

C. Those who were born in 1958 from 3 December 1990 to 5 December 1990.

3. This communique shall be considered official notification to all ministries, departments not affiliated to ministries, the socialist sector, and the mixed and private sectors so that they may inform their employees born in the aforementioned dates for its implementation.

[Signed] The staff brigadier general, the head of the Mobilization and Statistics, 23 November 1990

Farmers Recalled to Military Service by 15 Dec

JN2511135690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1205 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] The Iraqi Revolution Command Council [RCC] has decided to recall farmers to military service, two months after they were exempted from serving in the Armed Forces and Popular Army.

The decision states that it has been decided to recall the farmers, who had been exempted from reservist service, to military service within a week as of mid-December. It also states that the farmers who were granted leave to work in agriculture must return to serve in the Popular Army as of 15 December.

Opposition on Recruits, Former Chief of Staff

NC2511153290 Cairo MENA in English 1400 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, Nov 29 (MENA)—The Iraqi authorities have recruited large numbers of boys aging only 15 to protect the military and vital installations, according to statement issued by the National Committee for the Salvage of Iraq.

The statement added that these boys are paid monthly salaries reaching 200 dinars to persuade them to join the Armed Forces.

The statement said the whereabouts of former Iraqi chief of staff Nizar al-Khazraji are unknown after he was relieved of his post as he was accused of lack of diligence in arresting members of a al-Sabah ruling family following the Iraqi invasion.

Al-Khazraji was also accused of not being decisive in crushing a limited military mutiny which took place [in] southern Iraq.

Nation To Sue Bush Administration for Blockade

JN2511210690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Nov (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih has announced that Iraq will sue the Bush administration and all its partners in the blockade against the people of Iraq. Iraq will hold them responsible for every death since 2 August resulting from the shortage in children's milk and medicines. Iraq will also take legal action against these nations for whatever deterioration is caused to goods detained by them.

Speaking to local, Arab, and foreign correspondents, the minister said that, led by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, the people of Iraq are well placed to abort and break the inhuman blockade by making the most of their productive capacity and natural resources, and by streamlining their domestic economy.

The minister noted that the economic embargo imposed by the Bush administration had been preplanned long before to demolish Iraq's renaissance and independent will.

The U.S. embargo is a clear human rights violation and contrary to international conventions. He said that the claim to represent international legitimacy has been exploded by the inhumanity of the American Administration and its persistent interference in the internal affairs of other peoples and their right to self-determination.

The minister reviewed the Bush administration's use of food as an aggressive weapon to undermine Iraq's independent will, hamper its development and scientific progress, and jeopardize its territorial integrity under the pressure of the Zionist lobby. The minister also noted that the Bush administration had delayed an agricultural loan to Iraq, which was designed to promote the U.S. food commodities and which rose from $286 million in 1982 to $1.144 billion in 1988, in a bid to rob peoples of their will and realize the imperialist ambitions. He said that Iraq, which by the middle of this year had paid back $5.5 billion of its debts, stopped repayments as a result of the economic sanctions, thus causing most severe damage to industrial and developing nations that had extensive ties with Iraq and depended on Iraqi oil to run their productive machinery.

The minister recalled Iraq's numerous human initiatives to tackle the consequences of the economic blockade, citing the offer of free oil to developing nations or, alternatively, to sell on credit at prices prevailing prior to 2 August, with the provision that dues be settled when the crisis is over—thus confirming Iraq's humanitarian approach and concern to build economic cooperation on fair foundations.

The minister concluded by asking the newsmen to convey a letter from him to the UN secretary general, the president and members of the UN Security council, the president of the Nonaligned Movement, all humanitarian organizations, and the ministers of trade, economy, and trade, and finance around the world to expose the deviationist behavior of the Bush administration against Iraq while it mouths human rights slogans.

The following is the text of the letter:

Your Excellency the UN Secretary General,

President and members of the UN Security Council,

President of the Nonaligned Movement,

It is no secret to you that the hasty manner in which the Security Council passed its blockade and economic embargo resolutions against Iraq was unprecedented in the history of the international organization. The text and spirit of these resolutions highlight the fact that they did not aim at addressing a development with a view to solving its complications peacefully and in a manner that secures the legitimate rights of all parties to the conflict, but basically aimed at imposing coercive measures as pure punishment without heeding the humanitarian goals acknowledged by human and international law.

The Security Council resolutions imposed a full embargo on the import of foodstuffs and children's milk. The net effect of this is nothing but to starve our people, simply because they rose up to defend their existence and rights against foreign aggression and all policies of hegemony aimed at controlling their resources, and consequently, fully controlling their destiny.

It is nothing new to you that the human international law cited in the fourth Geneva convention of 1949 and the first supplementary protocol of 1977 ban the starvation of civilians as means of armed conflict.

Nevertheless, the Security Council, for a purely political objective, approved the policy of starvation without heeding these internationally accepted legal provisions. It should be noted that the United Nations did not follow such a policy against South Africa or Rhodesia, although it imposed sanctions on the regimes of those two entities.

These measures constitute a violation of human rights and the essence of religion. This makes it incumbent on all virtuous people to denounce the said resolutions, act against them, and end their illegitimate effects.

The restrictions imposed through pressure from the United States to prevent the export of children's milk have forced the Iraqi authorities to stop the provision of milk to newborn babies, which has led to a rise in the death rate as a result of malnutrition. The same applies to the provision of medicines, which led to the same results.

We want to inform you about this, hoping that you, out of justice and humanity, will use your good offices to put an end to the negative impact of these inhuman resolutions and stop the campaign of starvation against the people and children of Iraq.

With appreciation.

[Signed] Trade minister, Republic of Iraq.

Source Denies 'Aziz Requested Meeting With Baker

JN2311210290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2042 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Nov (INA)—A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry today denied (?Arab) claims that Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, had requested a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during the latter's recent visit to Yemen.

In a statement to INA today, the source said that Tariq 'Aziz has most decidedly not requested such a meeting with the U.S. secretary of state. The source added that these claims are fabricated, tendentious, and groundless.

Paper Derides Bush Reaction to Shamir Remarks

JN2611122490 Baghdad INA in English 1140 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 26, INA—The Iraqi English language newspaper "THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER" said Shamir's statement on keeping the occupied territories "from the sea to the river Jordan for generations to come, for mass immigration and for the Jewish people" has stunned everyone who is "interested" in the Middle East affairs but apparently not Bush.

A daily editorial here today said it would not need much speculation to determine what the response would be like by the president of Israel's closest ally and supowerpower number one in the world. But for all the strategic alliance between the United States and Israel, it remains a must that the U.S. president should, to say the least, react in a way that could allay the fears Shamir's remarks had generated among Palestinians first and to alleviate the embarrassment it has caused for Arab U.S. allies who still claim to have the Palestinian cause as "their main concern".

The daily added that when faced with Shamir's arrogant statement, George Bush simply sidestepped it saying he had not "read" Shamir's "Greater Israel" remark.

Ironically, Bush tried to lace his shameless reaction to the question with a determination "to play a very successful role in a peaceful resolution of this (Palestinian) question and it is not something we have forgotten..."

It would be preposterous to accept Bush's arguments on the Palestinian question. How could a man determined on solving the Middle East chronic problem be still unaware of a declaration of an attitude that rendered null and void any talk about a possible Israel withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories as part of a political settlement which Mubarak and his Arab allies claim to have been championing, the daily questioned.

It could only be that Bush is so keen not to knit his eyebrows at Shamir's impudent remark least he should disturb the Israel leader's expansionist reverie, it said.

The U.S. president should have at least rebuked his foster ally for voicing such an unwelcome remark at this crucial time when the United States policies in the Middle East are running the gauntlet of an Arab disdain of Bush's political hypocrisy and double standards, it concluded.

Security Council Resolution Rejected in Advance

JN2611084090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Nov (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has attacked the feverish American move to issue a Security Council resolution that would give international legitimacy to armed aggression against Iraq. The paper adds that what is taking place is a big scandal that undermines the bases and laws of real legitimacy.

AL-THAWRAH, the organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, expresses in today's editorial its regret over the international community's silence at the aggressive American behavior. The paper adds that the world or the influential international parties, in particular, are exposed to the danger of lack of balance if the world submits to the method of absolute hegemony that America wants to prevail in the world in the wake of the cold war.

The Iraqi paper refers to the 10 aggressive resolutions against Iraq that Washington imposed on the Security Council. It says that these resolutions are as strange as the present way in which the United States is preparing to issue another resolution in the absence of the opinion of the other Security Council members.

AL-THAWRAH notes the White House administration's admission that it has prepared the draft resolution, distributed it to the members, and defined the date of the meeting. The paper adds that what is worse is that it brazenly defines the desires of the Council and only asks the members to approve them.

The paper recalls the U.S. Administration's position on the Zionist massacre at the al-Aqsa Mosque and on hundreds of resolutions that were issued by the Security Council on the Palestine question and which were neither respected nor accepted by Tel Aviv. The paper asks: Are these not double-standard criteria disgracing the principles of freedom and human rights which some in the West speak about?

AL-THAWRAH stresses that resolutions like the one which Washington is trying to issue at the Security Council against Iraq are unjust resolutions that should not be respected because they do not enjoy any real legitimacy.

AL-THAWRAH affirms Iraq's categorical rejection—in advance—of this American decision. The paper adds that we understand our legal and human responsibility vis-a-vis the international organizations, including the Security Council. If anyone imagines that these decisions of the U.S. Administration can affect our positions or can make us relinquish our rights, he will be deluding himself to the highest degree.

'Reason' Only Option of 'Enemies of Peace'

JN2611102290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Nov (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH and AL-'IRAQ have stressed that the enemies of peace have no choice but to respond to the voice of reason and to keep away from the course of aggression and destruction.

Under the headline "Bush and the War Option: The Last Shot Will Be Iraqi," AL-QADISIYAH writes the following in its editorial: If the first shot in the aggression against Iraq will be an American shot, the last will inevitably be an Iraqi. This is what Bush, his allies, and the traitors of the Arab nation such as Fahd and Husni should understand and be certain of. The paper adds that all preparations—and smallest details in the daily life—are based on waging a confrontation, the decisive battle, until the American aggression is defeated and the invaders are destroyed in the Arab land in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

AL-QADISIYAH adds: The people of Iraq, who are going about their daily activities in terms of work and production despite the criminal economic blockade against them, are also living every moment in a state of complete mobilization to play their role in deterring and destroying any aggression against them, against their territorial integrity, sovereignty, pan-Arab ambitions, and right to awakening and progress.

The Iraqi paper notes that we are absolutely confident that the U.S. Administration has fully adopted the decision of war against Iraq and that it is moving toward it, toward the abyss. However, it wants to secure a false Arab and international umbrella in order to embark on its stupidity which will cause harm to the region and the world.

Concluding, AL-QADISIYAH says that Iraq—beginning with its leader President Saddam Husayn and ending with the smallest Iraqi child—prays that a destructive war will not break out. But, on the other hand, Iraq calls on God to grant him doubled strength and determination to confront any American aggression to carry the honor of saving humanity from this monster.

Under the headline "The Evildoers Will Be Defeated in Front of the Will of Goodness and Peace," AL-'IRAQ says that the peace sought by Iraq and on which it insists must be comprehensive; it should not be confined to one problem at the expense of the other cases that has been ignored for long years.

AL-'IRAQ adds: If the concept of peace and justice are one, the international community should move quickly—without hesitation—to force the Zionist enemy to withdraw from the occupied territory, to restore the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights, to put an end to the crimes of annihilation to which they are being exposed daily, and to put an end to the occupation of the [Golan] Heights.

The Iraqi paper says: When the evildoers—like Bush—realize that Iraq under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn will not submit to threats, blackmailing, twisted methods, and destructive behavior, they will ultimately be forced to review their hostile positions and conspiratorial schemes against Iraq, the Arab nation, and all Muslims, and to submit to the logic of reason and concept of real peace, not the false peace tailored in accordance with the taste of Bush and the agents like Fahd and Husni.

The paper warns that igniting a war will turn the region into a burning hell whose fire will not extinguish, but will expand far beyong their imaginary lines and the boundaries of their agents and those following them. He who warns is excused.

Arabs Who Fought U.S. 'On Paper' Exposed

JN2611111790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Nov (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that the Arab masses are convinced that those who are afraid are not qualified to lead the nation and are unsuitable to take on the struggle against American imperialism despite their long boasting about this. In an article today, AL-JUMHURIYAH notes the lessons emerging from the uprising of Iraq against the forces of world tyranny led by the United States. This uprising has revealed the false slogans of certain Arab parties that have been calling for fighting America in its own country. The representatives of these parties brandished a wooden sword to fight the new force of imperialism as Don Quixote fought the windmills.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that when America prepared for the aggression against Iraq and occupied the lands of the Arabian Peninsula after the Arabs were given their historical opportunity to regain their usurped rights with the presence of a qualified Arab power to extract these rights, the slogans of those quixotic parties have been revealed to demonstrate to the Arab masses that their war against the Americans was a war on paper only.

The Iraqi paper says: The problem of those people is that they are against America in their intentions, but when they saw the buildup and fleets they were frightened. Their fear of the American forces prevents them from fighting it.

Kuwait Residents To Have Ration Cards

JN2511164690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1608 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Nov (INA)—Committees entrusted with the task of organizing ration cards in the Governorate of Kuwait have begun work to supply the citizens of the governorate with basic and necessary foodstuffs.

This came in a statement to INA by a responsible Trade Ministry source who said that the committees include representatives of the Trade Ministry and the general trade union of cooperative and consumer societies.

He added that these committees will continue to grant ration cards to citizens, Arabs, and foreigners who are living in the governorate until mid-January on the basis of the same principles and regulations defining basic and necessary food commodities in other Iraqi governorates.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Delegation in Baghdad

Arrives 25 Nov

JN2511130890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Mostafa Ha'eri-Fuman, director general of the Gulf Desk at the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, arrived in Baghdad this morning at the head of a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq.

In a statement to an INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY] correspondent, Ha'eri said: Our Iraq visit comes within the framework of coordination, and the exchange of views and opinions between the two neighboring states to achieve a comprehensive and durable peace. He added that he would discuss with Iraqi officials the issue of organizing visits by the nationals of the two countries to the holy shrines in each country.

The delegation accompanying Ha'eri comprises Sirus Naseri, Iranian permanent representative in Geneva; ('Ali Qaram), head of the committee in charge of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 598; Hoseyn Reza'i, head of the pilgrimage and visitation organization [title as received]; and a number of other Iranian officials.

The delegation was welcomed at the airport by Barazan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, permanent Iraqi representative at the European UN Headquarters in Geneva, a number of Foreign Ministry officials, and the Iranian charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Holds Talks

JN2511191990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1852 GMT 25 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Nov (INA)—Iraqi-Iranian talks were held at the Foreign Ministry today under the cochairmanship of Riyad al-Qaysi, director of the Organizations and Conferences Department at the Foreign Ministry; and Mostafa Ha'eri-Fuman, director general of the Gulf Desk at the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The talks came in implementation of the agreement between the two countries' leaders to continue talks on promoting relations between the two neighboring countries in order to reinforce and entrench a comprehensive and lasting peace between them on the basis of good neighborliness, mutual respect, and joint interests.

The talks were attended for Iraq by the head of the legal department and senior Foreign Ministry officials and for Iran by Iran's permanent representative at the United Nation's European Office in Geneva and senior Iranian Foreign Ministry officials.

More POW's Released by Iran Arrive in Baghdad

JN2411153390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Tex] Two hundred Iraqi prisoners of war returned to the homeland this evening aboard a special Iraqi plane which carried them from Tehran to Baghdad in accordance with the recent agreement reached between Iraq and Iran in Baghdad.

When the POW's—who represent the second batch—deplaned, they kissed the soil of the homeland and beseeched Almighty God to preserve leader President Saddam Husayn and to grant victory to his faithful and mujahidin soldiers.

The returning POW's also expressed happiness and joy to be returning to the homeland. In statements to INA correspondents, they declared that they were ready to sacrifice, to defend the Arab nation and the homeland, and to help build the homeland. They were received by the chairman and members of the higher committee for supervising the return of POW's.

Soviet Oil Ministry Official Arrives in Baghdad

JN2511200290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Nov (INA)—S.K. Arakelyan, deputy minister at the Soviet Ministry of Construction of Petroleum and Gas Industry Enterprises, arrived in Baghdad today leading a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq.

The Soviet delegation will hold talks with Oil Ministry officials on promoting relations in the various fields of oil industries.

He was received at the airport by the Oil Ministry under secretary and the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad.

Trade Minister on Supply Situation, New Measures

JN1611160090 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 13 Nov 90 p 7

[By Jamal 'Abd Namus]

[Text] Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih says the ministry has provided our Armed Forces fighters on the front with substantial quantities of foodstuffs that should last long enough, with each soldier allotted a share greater than that given to members of the general public. Over and above their usual family allowances, fighters will be entitled to 120 percent more flour, 160 percent more rice, 20 percent more tea, [figure indistinct] more oil, and 342 percent more legumes than civilians.

The minister noted that in the three months since food rationing was introduced due to the exceptional circumstances, our great Iraq is experiencing an imperialist American onslaught seeking the deprivation of Iraqi children of food, milk, and medicines, the system has achieved the key aim of streamlining the central foodstuff warehouse.

In a symposium attended by correspondents of the local press, INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY], and radio and television, the minister evaluated the ration card experiment and noted its advantages and drawbacks. The minister stressed that the country's strategic reserve [al-khazin al-markazi] of staples is still satisfactory, thanks be to God.

He said: The ration card system introduced following His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's instructions in the first week of the siege is proving a success at all levels—right from the Ministry of Trade down to all geographic localities. Party organizations and the People's Assembly, along with the Ministry, have made a major contribution to the success of the new experiment.

The minister said he was impressed by the civic responsibility of the general public, whose cooperation speaks volumes for its patriotism.

Answering questions from the correspondents, the minister said the experiment amounts to a population consensus. Whatever problems have been experienced in implementing the ration system, the ministry has been sorting them out, the minister said. He cited the determination of beneficiaries from rationing, noting that, in cooperation with party organizations and the People's Assembly, the ministry has adopted the civil status identity card to set quotas. The ministry is also making intensive efforts to see to the delivery of the monthly quotas on time. Toward this end, the ministry has issued explicit instructions whereby foodstuffs will have to be made available to agents five days before the end of the month, so as to ensure prompt delivery to the public.

The minister said: Meanwhile, the ministry is working in coordination with the People's Assembly on a system to ensure that no one holds a ration card for loaves and another for flour.

On how citizens should deal with the changes within the household in relation to the ration card, the trade minister said: Citizens are asked that if any development takes place within the household, for example, a birth or death, God forbid, to inform the local council in his area and to report it accurately so that nothing goes wrong concerning his family's monthly quota. Also, when any citizen moves from one residence to another, he should report that fact. For its part, the ministry will remain in touch with the local councils and the party's councils to follow up these developments in an accurate, organized manner.

As for infants' milk, following coordination with the Health Ministry, it has been decided to distribute milk after having the mother undergo a medical checkup at health centers to determine her ability to breastfeed. This is important in itself because it helps encourage the glorious Iraqi women to adopt the method of natural breastfeeding of babies.

The minister added that new supplies will be distributed to citizens as of the beginning of this month in accordance with the ration card system. These supplies are: matches, shaving cream, toothpaste, and razor blades. They will be distributed equally to all families regardless of the number of family members.

The minister also touched on the ministry's measures to ensure the foreign families' need for foodstuffs, saying: The guests are receiving special attention and care. All their needs are provided for without shortage or defect. As for diplomatic missions, in addition to what the ministry makes available to them, they have the privilege of procuring their additional needs from the free market.

Concerning the ministry's measures with regard to flour and improving its quality, Muhammad Mahdi Salih said: In light of the ration card experiment that was mandated by the circumstances of the unjust economic embargo on Iraq by the forces of aggression and tyranny, we have had to adopt a new method of dealing with basic foodstuffs according to what is available in the country's reserves, particularly flour, which is now being mixed with wheat and a percentage of barley. This is a new experience for the citizen. Along with this process of mixing that takes place at silos and mills, there have been some differences in the percentage of mixing, which consequently had some effects on the quality of flour. In order to overcome this problem, specialized committees were set up. These committees are now taking samples of the percentages that have been mixed with wheat and barley and examining them closely so as to ensure there will be a type of flour acceptable to citizens. In addition, the activity of mills is under constant review, and their performance of mixing and milling is also subject to observation. In fact, the ministry discovered that two mills had increased the percentage of bran in flour; therefore, the two mills were seized according to a decision made by Revolution Command Council because they were tampering with people's livelihood.

One might wonder here about the reason for mixing wheat with barley, which will soon be mixed with yellow corn. To answer this question, we say that the requirements of the tree-planting campaign dictated that the ministry provide large amounts of seeds for farmers as its own contribution. [sentence as published]

As for the ministry's regulations and its constant monitoring of the activity of bakeries, some bakeries were found to be violating regulations and were fined about 400-1000 dinars. In general, some bakeries will cease to function because a great number of citizens have preferred to get a flour card instead of loaves; in fact, 90 percent of citizens preferred flour to loaves.

The minister talked about the shortage in some canned foods and the embarrassment this has caused the foodstuffs agents with respect to the citizens. He said: Our major objective is that the citizen receive his share of food without any shortage. The ministry has diagnosed this problem very accurately; therefore, it is now granting agents the following percentage increase in their foodstuffs: three percent for flour, rice, and vegetable oils; two percent for legumes; and one percent for sugar. Agents have also been given a reduction due to the dryness that decreases the weight of foodstuffs after storage; therefore, the agent has no excuse in this regard must provide each citizen with his full share. Specialists, whether in the Ministry of Trade or the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization, are following up on this issue and on any violations as much as possible.

Regarding the role of popular supervision to overcome obstacles in implementing the ration card experiment, the minister said: The citizen's automatic response and cooperation with the experiment have given us great joy since this experiment has managed to achieve numerous positive results that citizens have felt in dealing with it daily.

He said: Popular supervision is an important factor in guaranteeing that the experiment is carried out correctly, and the task of rendering it a success is important. Everyone without exception, including party and popular organizations, are asked to follow up and diagnose all obstacles that hamper the process of obtaining food rations, to observe any violations that could happen, and to report them to the ministry. On this issue, popular committees have been formed to supervise the operation of distributing flour. These committees are one aspect of the popular supervision which will require as much cooperation as possible.

The minister said during the seminar that the ministry had prepared 15,000 tonnes of seeds in addition to the support it gave to the winter agriculture campaign. The ministry has so far distributed 150,000 tonnes of wheat and barley to farmers. The additional 15,000 will be distributed in the next few days in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. This amount represents four times what the ministry distributed during last season.

He added that in light of the leader president's gift of increasing the purchase price of agricultural crops from the farmers that the Trade Ministry receives, the last of which was his excellency's order to increase the purchase price of rice, the Ministry is working continuously to organize the delivery process, particularly for rice. So far, the ministry has received a total of 12,000 tonnes of rice, whose production this year brings good news of good quality and quantity.

He said the efforts on the winter agricultural campaign bring good news of ample production that will increase Iraq's stock to make it more capable of confronting the oppressive siege imposed by the United States and its Zionist and Western allies. God willing, the hopes of the enemies will be shattered and their siege will fail. The will of the Iraqi people will triumph under the banner of the leader protected by God, President Saddam Husayn, God protect him.

Flour Prices, Army Desertions Reportedly Soar

PM2311163590 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL DUWALI in Arabic 20 Nov 90 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Supreme Council of Islamic Revolution in Iraq Says in Statement: 'Economic Crisis Worsening, More Fleeing Army'"]

[Text] Damascus, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—A statement issued in Beirut by the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq has pointed out that the economic crisis in Iraq is worsening and the number of those fleeing the Army is increasing because of the shortage of food.

The statement said that all indications emphasize the deterioration of economic conditions: Many commodities have disappeared from the market and their prices have soared.

The statement said that the supply crisis is one of the reasons behind the increasing numbers of those fleeing the Armed Forces, as the Army sectors are noticeably suffering food shortages. In some sectors troops get just one meal a day.

The statement said that barley has become the main ingredient in bread, although it is usually used as an animal feedstuff. The price of barley has risen by 700 percent.

The statement cited the closure of large numbers of bakeries in many Iraqi towns as a result of the shortage of flour. And restaurants have been prevented from offering rice and bread together to eke out supplies. And long lines wait for hours to obtain bread.

The Council blamed the regime for the increase in the prices of items whose supply is rationed, the reduction in the distributed shares, the disappearance of supply commodities from distribution centers as a result of favoritism. They are seized by the security organs and those close to the regime. These items are available on the black market but at astronomical prices (35-120 times the original price). For example, the price of a sack of flour has increased from 2.5 dinars to 250 dinars.

The Council emphasized that many factories have stopped their production lines because of the shortage of raw materials. And the commercial area in Baghdad now looks deserted. As for the monetary deficit, it is very high, to the extent that the official organs are compulsorily distributing 1,000-dinar loan bonds to traders and business men. Such a practice was conducted in 1985, but the Central Bank has still not paid the value of the old bonds.

Measures Taken To Punish Foodstuff Hoarders

JN1611100190 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Nov 90 pp 1, 9

[Text] Baghdad—AL-JUMHURIYAH has learned that based on yesterday's meeting under leader President Saddam Husayn to discuss issues related to economic matters, especially the marketing of crops, measures are now being taken to lay down rules to firmly punish those hoarders who fail to market crops and levy penalties equal to those related to sabotaging the national economy.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH last night, 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of agriculture and irrigation, said that the president's directives will have positive, significant results that will benefit both the citizens and the farmers, strengthen the national economy, and erase the black market. A decision was made increasing the price of rice purchased from the farmer for the current cycle with a retroactive effect, in order to include the 10,000 tonnes that have been delivered since the beginning of the harvesting campaign.

The minister said that the great increase in the price of al-Mishkhab rice from 400 to 700 dinars per tonne was effected because this type of rice had been sold at a very low price. It was also done in order to encourage farmers to grow this variety, because one donum of land will yield twice as much as what it yields from the al-'Anbar variety of rice.

The minister noted that in light of this increase, there is no remaining justification for the farmer to market outside the state bodies, which are now the sole dealer in all the strategic grains—wheat, barley, and corn—now that the prices more than meet the needs of the peasants and farmers. He said the Trade Ministry will distribute the strategic grains among the people in a fair way.

Concluding his statement, the minister asked the citizens and peasants to serve the national economy by reporting any transaction that is made outside the state bodies.

AL-JUMHURIYAH learned that the Trade Ministry has decided to open new centers in the governorates to receive the marketed crops near the production centers, so that the farmers and peasants can market their crops easily. The government will pay the prices of the crops in a swift manner.

Maize Used as Human Food for 'First Time'

JN0911174690 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Nov 90 p 6

[Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH has learned that maize will be used as a human food for the first time in Iraq.

This was announced during a seminar held for maize planters and investors by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation to draw up a program for marketing maize and studying the ministry's instructions on this subject. The minister of agriculture and irrigation attended the seminar and stressed the special importance of maize.

The minister also urged the investors to cultivate and market maize crops carefully in accordance with certain specifications. If humidity exceeds a certain limit in the crop, fungi will grow, poisoning it and making it inedible. During the seminar, committees were set up to examine closely the humidity and impurities of each maize consignment to factories. Factories will operate 24 hours a day so that the crops can be received quickly. The Trade Ministry's maize factory will also receive maize consignments.

It was also decided to ban the sale of any quantity of maize to local markets for any purpose. If any quantity is found in the market, it will be confiscated and the violators will be fined and denied future agricultural services.

Diyala Farmland Planted With Wheat, Barley

JN1411113090 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 11 Nov 90 p 7

[Excerpt] The Diyala Governorate is considered one of the important farming governorates. Farmlands occupy large tracts of land. Farms and orchards spread over large extensions there.

Now that imperialist and Zionist quarters and those supporting them have enforced their unjust economic blockade on our country to starve our people and children, an intensive agricultural campaign designed to exploit the land in an optimal manner and respond firmly to this unjust blockade has been initiated.

In the Governorate of Diyala, the agricultural departments have begun to prepare the necessary requirements in terms of land, machinery, equipment, and fertilizers for peasants and farmers. The goal is to embark on a cultivation drive and make the winter agricultural campaign a successful one.

AL-'IRAQ interviewed Diyala Governor Khudayr al-Duri, who explained aspects of some of the comprehensive preparations for this large-scale campaign. He said: In light of the instructions issued by his excellency the president, leader struggler Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, to come up with an excellent agricultural season and thwart the objectives of the unfair economic blockade to starve our steadfast Iraqi people, to rob them of their national will, and to threaten and blackmail the Arab nation, we have held constant meetings of the agricultural and other departments in the governorate. It has been decided to plant 1,274,134 donums of land with wheat and barley. [passage omitted]

Minister Urges Pharmacies To Use Medicinal Herbs

JN1011133990 Baghdad INA in English 1250 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 10, INA—'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id, minister of health, confirmed that the ministry endeavours to promote the circulation and processing of medical herbs as a substitute for many imported medicines.

During a meeting with private drugstore owners, Mr. Sa'id requested them to cooperate with the Ministry to overcome negative impacts of the economic blockade imposed on Iraq and to provide the best medical services to the people.

Shamir 'To Do What Must Be Done' Against Iraq

TA2611121490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Report by Rina Matzliah from the Moria Hotel in Jerusalem]

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir stirred the audience here at the Moria Hotel in Jerusalem, where 400 representatives of the French Jewish communities are gathered, with a brilliant and emotional speech in which he elaborated on Israel's security, social, and economic situation. When the day comes, Shamir said—referring to the dictator Saddam Husayn, as he called him—we will have to do what must be done. Well then, you can draw your own conclusions, Shamir told them.

He went on to say that when he goes to Washington in two weeks he will confer with U.S. President George Bush and will explain to him that in spite of the U.S. efforts to enlist a broad and strong coalition against Baghdad, the Americans must remember that their most important and reliable friend and ally in the free world is Israel.

Shamir devoted most of his speech to recent events and to yesterday's incident on the Egyptian border. He said: This incident occurred mainly because these countries, Egypt as well as Jordan, give free rein to propaganda and incitement against the Israeli state and the Jewish people.

After addressing the visiting French Jews, Mr. Shamir agreed to reply to a few questions by reporters.

[Begin recording] [Matzliah] Mr. Prime Minister, what will the Israeli Government do so that such incidents do not recur—either on the Egyptian or on the Jordanian border?

[Shamir] We will take all the necessary security measures, of course, but we will also demand from the neighboring governments of Egypt and Jordan to see to it that such incidents do not recur.

[Matzliah] Have the Israeli and the Egyptian Governments already been in touch on this matter?

[Shamir] Yes, definitely.

[Matzliah] What did they say?

[Shamir] They are sorry about the incident and they are taking measures.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, do the incidents of the last 24 hours on the northern and southern borders attest to a slackening in our security?

[Shamir] God forbid. Such problems do occur, but Israel's security is in very good hands.

[Matzliah] Has the border with Egypt been reinforced?

[Shamir] To the extent necessary. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 26 November carries a related report, adding: "The prime minister said that he is certain the Egyptian president did not want yesterday's murder near the border to occur, and that no one in the Egyptian Administration gave the order to the murdering soldier. In his opinion, the murderer is the victim of continuous incitement, both in Egypt and in Jordan. Israel will not allow this situation to continue. Everything will be done against all those trying to hurt us and, if necessary, the border with Egypt will be reinforced, Shamir said."]

Reaction to Bush Invitation to Meet With Shamir

Government Voices 'Satisfaction'

TA2311190390 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Jerusalem today voiced its satisfaction over President Bush's announcement that he is inviting Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to confer with him in two weeks, when the latter arrives in the United States. Our correspondent Yoram Ronen reports that officials in the prime minister's office believe that the U.S. Administration is seeking to turn over a new leaf in its relations with Israel following President Bush's abstinence from meeting or phoning the prime minister since the outbreak of the Persian Gulf crisis. Contrary to Shamir's visit to the United States a year ago, when President Bush put off announcing whether he would agree to confer with Shamir until the very last minute, this time he extended his invitation in ample time and ensured that it was announced before his session with President al-Asad in Geneva this evening.

Media Anticipates Meeting

TA2511104390

[Editorial Report] The major Israeli dailies carry in their 25 November editions reports on the upcoming meeting between U.S. President Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in Washington in December. The papers report the satisfaction felt in Israeli political circles with the timely scheduling of the meeting and their hope that it presages an improvement in U.S.-Israeli relations. Political sources do not fail to note, however, that the meeting takes place in the shadow of President Bush's recent meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The reports give a rundown of the topics the two leaders are expected to discuss, explaining that no new initiatives regarding the Israeli-Arab peace process are anticipated.

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English in a report on pages 1 and 8 by Allision Kaplan in Washington and David Makovsky in Jerusalem states that the meeting between Bush and Shamir is expected to take place between December 11 and 13. THE JERUSALEM POST report goes on to say: "According to sources in the prime minister's bureau, on the agenda will be the peace process, Israel's role in the Gulf crisis, relations between the U.S. and Syria, and massive sales of weapons to Saudi Arabia.

"While Shamir is ready to listen to all proposals put forward by Bush, he has no new ideas for advancing the peace process in the post-Gulf crisis period beyond the May 1989 peace initiative, the sources said.

"Another issue will be that while Israel realizes it must maintain a low profile in the Gulf crisis, it hopes that the U.S. will 'put an end to Iraqi aggression and the sooner the better' beyond the period it needs for adequate preparation, these sources said.

"Third, Shamir will seek to convince Bush not to go forward with plans for further U.S. sale of advanced weaponry, estimated at $14 billion to Saudi Arabia.

"Fourth, while stressing that Israel does not want to meddle in its choice of Arab coalition partners, Israel hopes that the U.S. alliance with Syria is ad hoc and will not affect U.S. thinking on the Arab-Israeli conflict. While government officials privately criticized the Bush-al-Asad meeting, Shamir publicly voiced understanding."

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 25 November in a report on pages 1 and 2 by political reporter Hemi Shalev and Washington reporter Drora Perel touches on the issue of the peace process and adds: "Jerusalem sources expressed some concern that Bush may publicly express his anger with the Israeli policy regarding settlements and with Shamir's statements on settling immigrants in the territories." As to the possible topics for discussion at the Shamir-Bush meeting, DAVAR notes that "sources surmised 'they would encompass the entire range of issues currently on the agenda,' but the meeting would be mostly polite and would not include a practical discussion or any expectation for answers 'along the lines of the Baker questions.'"

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 25 November, in a report on pages 1 and 4 by Dalya Shehori in Washington, Pinhas 'Inbari, Moti Bassok, and news agencies, reports: "Jerusalem sources expect to receive briefings within the next few days from the United States on the details of the talks held between U.S. President Bush and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Observers in Jerusalem yesterday surmised that no breakthroughs in the Middle East peace process were reached during the meeting between the two presidents. The observers expressed the opinion that the United States is rewarding Syria because it needs Damascus in the Gulf crisis and that the developing relations between the two countries will eventually lead to a certain level of moderation in Damascus and may even help create a new political climate in the Middle East after the Gulf crisis is resolved."

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 25 November in a front-page report by Ilan Kfir and Yo'el Esteron in Washington notes: "The prime minister is expected to voice Israel's concern over the large arms deal with Saudi Arabia and will ask for additional defense aid.

"On his way to Washington Shamir will meet departing British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and with her chosen successor. Shamir will request this visit as a special gesture for Thatcher, whom he termed 'one of Israel's greatest friends.'"

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 25 November in an article on page A1 and A2 by Avino'am Bar-Yosef and Ran Dagoni notes Jerusalem's satisfaction with the scheduled meeting, pointing out, however, that "senior political sources expressed the opinion that U.S.-Syrian dialogue will continue, despite the disappointing results of the Bush-al-Asad meeting as far as Israel is concerned." MA'ARIV adds: "Israeli elements expressed disappointment and frustration with the fact that Bush chose to announce his planned meeting with Shamir at a news conference, and only in reaction to reports that Jerusalem was furious about his meeting with al-Asad. 'Bush thinks he was doing us a favor by agreeing to meet Shamir, but actually the meeting serves as an easy retort to the criticism leveled at Bush for meeting the Syrian president,' an Israeli source said."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 25 November reports: "In contrast to previous meetings between Israeli prime ministers and U.S. Presidents, there is no fear in Jerusalem of U.S. demands for progress in the political process. Israel hopes the meeting will be mostly devoted to the Gulf crisis and not to the political process in the Middle East." The report adds: "Prime Minister Shamir has no intention of presenting in Washington any new ideas to further the peace process, and he will reiterate Israel's commitment to its peace plan of 14 May 1989. Regardless of whether the Bush-Shamir meeting has practical results, the main achievement has already been accomplished. The very agreement to hold a meeting symbolizes a warming in Israeli-U.S. relations, and this feeling is expected to be strengthened following the meeting in Washington."

Outrage Called 'Incompatible' With Low Profile

TA2511143090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
25 Nov 90 p B1

[Editorial: "Senseless Outrage"]

[Text] The U.S. President conferred in Geneva with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad for over three hours. The White House spokesman described it as a "sincere and exhaustive" meeting, while Damascus said it had been held in a positive atmosphere. Al-Asad probably did not give his consent to the use of military power against Saddam Husayn or commit himself to the participation of Syrian troops in a U.S. offensive against Iraq. Although he may take credit for standing up to the U.S. President's pressure, al-Asad failed to attain the deletion of Syria from the list of countries encouraging terror.

George Bush referred the Syrian leader to UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The latter talks about the need for negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries, so as to attain the implementation of the former. No decision was made in the meeting on Syria's demand to call an international conference.

Upon learning that Bush plans to confer with Hafiz al-Asad, official Jerusalem circles fed the media with expressions of outrage at the U.S. President's planned meeting with the head of a state listed as sheltering terror organizations. None of the officials who thought this was the right time to point to all of al-Asad's crimes gave much thought to the fact that Syria is currently deployed on the same side of the fence as the United States against the Iraqi ruler and that it is only logical that having had audiences with King Fahd and President Mubarak, George Bush should also confer with the Syrian leader. After all, Israel should be interested in the success of any U.S. effort that prevents the weakening—not to mention the crumbling—of the anti-Saddam coalition.

The next day the prime minister sought to amend the error committed by the officials. Speaking in Beersheba, Shamir said that "Bush's most important objective at the moment is to strengthen the international coalition against Saddam Husayn." Naturally, Defense Minister Moshe Arens fell into line with the tone set by Yitzhaq Shamir. Addressing a Tel Aviv University symposium about the Persian Gulf crisis, Defense Minister Moshe Arens indeed admitted that he did not see "anything wrong" with the Bush-al-Asad meeting, but nevertheless saw the need to remind those who may have forgotten that al-Asad was the man who perpetrated the massacre in Hamah, that Syrian intelligence had assassinated Bashir al-Jumayyil and Dani Sham'un, and that Damascus gives shelter to the terror organizations of Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] and Ahmad Jibril. "Israel sees no difference ("no great difference," according to another report) between the Iraqi ruler and the Syrian president," Arens said.

Nobody can deny the facts contained in the defense minister's remarks. If they must be stressed at all times, however, how is one to explain Arens' yearning to iron out differences with Syria to the point that he was prepared to welcome a meeting between Shamir and al-Asad by saying "we wish such a meeting would take place?"

The whole world knows that the Israeli Government actually gives Syria a free hand in Lebanon based on the assumption that al-Asad will continue to see to it that his army does not move southward, toward the lines set by Israel. Israel also allowed the Syrian Army to get rid of General Michel 'Awn. The contradictory reactions to the Bush-al-Asad meeting attest to a lack of coordination within the government and reflect the outrage over the exclusion of Israel from the U.S. President's itinerary. The expressions of outrage are incompatible with the government's compliance with Washington's request to keep a low profile on everything pertaining to the Gulf crisis.

Four Killed, 23 Wounded in Bus Attack Near Elat

Radio Reports Incident

TA2511135490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1323 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] This is a special flash to report that three IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers and a civilian employed by the IDF were killed by shots fired this morning by an Egyptian, who is believed to be an Egyptian soldier. Twenty-three soldiers and civilians were wounded by the gunfire. Families of the dead have been notified.

The terrorist attack began around 0700 [0500 GMT] at 'Uziyyahu Mountain, 25 km northwest of Elat. The Egyptian assailant managed to flee into Egyptian territory where he was captured, presumably by the Egyptians. The Islamic Jihad has claimed responsibility for the act. Our military reporter Amir Fink has additional details:

An Egyptian, who is believed to have beeen a soldier, crossed the Israeli-Egyptian border at 0700 in the vicinity of 'En Netafim. He shot, hit, and killed four Israelis—three soldiers and one civilian—and wounded 23 civilians. This was reported by the IDF spokesman. The [dead] soldiers are First Sergeant Avi Serlin and Sergeant Major Hayim Ashkenazi; the name of the third soldier has not been released yet. The fallen civilian is Eli'ezer Wahabe, 36, from Elat.

The Egyptian fired at four military and civilian vehicles as they were driving along the Elat-Qadesh Barnea' road. The fallen soldiers and civilian were driving the vehicles.

Eighteen of the wounded have already been sent home, while one was transferred to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba.

A security guard aboard one of the buses returned fire, wounding the assailant. An IDF patrol that arrived on the scene spotted the gunman as he was fleeing back into Egyptian territory. Israel has conveyed relevant information to the Egyptian authorities through a liaison with foreign forces.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens has responded with these words: This is a most grave event, and Israel expects Egypt to take every necessary step to preserve security along its border with Israel and prevent killings from its territory.

Envoy Says Assailant Apprehended

TA2511132890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1320 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Four people were killed and 23 wounded in a serious incident on the Israeli-Egyptian border, 20 km north of Elat.

An armed man who infiltrated from Egyptian territory opened fire at several Israeli vehicles, killing four and wounding 23 people. Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni has said that the assailant was caught.

Islamic Jihad Claims Attack

LD2611144290 Paris Antenne 2 Television in French 1200 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] [Announcer] Violence against Israelis in the Middle East at the weekend: There were several attacks, and in particular an attack near Elat in Israel. Islamic Jihad claims responsibility for this attack. One of its representatives told this to our special reporter, Veronique Taveau, in Amman, Jordan:

[Taveau] Official claim of responsibility: the Islamic Jihad, through its most important religious authority in the region, Shaykh Asad al-Tamimi [identified by caption as spiritual head of Islamic Jihad] acknowledges responsibility for yesterday's anti-Israeli attack. The attacks will continue; the Islamic Jihad's warning is clear, as long as the threat of war exists the Jihad will respond.

[Begin recording] [Al-Tamimi in Arabic fading to French translation] There are going to be other attacks during the coming days. We are with Iraq. The Jihad supports Iraq. This is why our battle extends from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea and the Gulf. The aim of our action is not just the destruction of Israel, but also that of the reigning families of Saudi Arabia and the other families of the Gulf. France's policy has changed: We saw in Mr. Mitterrand a reasonable man, but he has been dragged along by George Bush.

[Taveau] Does that mean also that there are risks of attacks in France against French interests?

[Al-Tamimi] If it enters the war, yes! [end recording] [video shows Al-Tamimi speaking to reporter]

Shamir Expresses 'Shock, Sorrow'

TA2511182790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has expressed shock and sorrow over the killing of Israeli soldiers and civilians. A spokesman for his office said Israel expects Egypt to prevent infiltrations and to try the perpetrator of this morning's attack without delay. [passage omitted]

Levi Delivers 'Protest'

TA2511152990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] This afternoon, Foreign Minister David Levi summoned Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni and asked him to inform the Egyptian Government of the shock, anger, and protest of the Israeli Government and people over what he termed the slaughter perpetrated today on the Egyptian border.

Our political affairs correspondent Arye Golan reports that Foreign Minister Levi said that the repetition of such a situation in which people are murdered on Egyptian soil and along its border cannot be tolerated. Israel demands that the Egyptian Government take every measure required by this unbearable situation so as to end the phenomenon and to exhaust all legal steps against the persons responsible for it.

Levi on Egyptian Responsibility

TA2511182390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by political reporter Arye Golan "tonight"; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, does Israel regard the Egyptian Government as responsible for what happened near Elat this morning?

[Levi] The fact is that this is not the first time Israelis have been murdered by assassins who came from the Egyptian side, and on Egyptian soil; all this although we live in peace with Egypt. It is therefore only natural for us to feel rage and to protest. We want the Egyptian authorities to understand that they must do everything possible to put an end to this grave, this intolerable situation that we will no longer bear. We will not stand for the shedding of Israeli blood on Egyptian territory without impunity.

[Golan] Would you say, Minister Levi, that what this means in fact is that the peace with Egypt is shaky? That it is not good peace?

[Levi] No, I cannot agree with this definition, and the more so because the Egyptian authorities themselves always condemn such deeds and take action to locate the criminals and murderers. While there is peace, however, we cannot tolerate the shedding of Israeli blood and the fact that the enemies of peace—as Egypt has defined them—are allowed to operate against Israel from Egyptian soil. We will not be able to stomach this.

[Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, as an inner Cabinet member, do you not think Israel should also do some soul-searching and come to the conclusion that if one man carrying one weapon can kill four and wound dozens, perhaps we are not sufficiently ready and alert either.

[Levi] We live in a time when, I regret to say, events constantly reopen this question. Only a few days ago, a similar incident occurred on the Jordanian border; today we heard about the suicide-bound terrorist on the Lebanese border, and now it is an incident in the south. The atmosphere is conducive to such phenomena; this is a very special time. Therefore, being alert and prepared are essential now more than ever.

[Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, I thank you very much.

Ministers Olmert, Qatzav Comment

TA2511141890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1349 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] The deputy chief of staff this morning briefed cabinet ministers who were gathered for their weekly session about the attack on the Egyptian border. Upon returning from the scene of the incident, the chief of staff personally briefed the prime minister. Cabinet ministers say that Egypt should prevent terrorists from crossing into Israel from its territory. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports the reactions of some cabinet ministers.

[Begin recording] [Gutman] Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni is currently conferring with Foreign Minister David Levi. Basyuni is presumably delivering the Egyptian Government's reaction to the bloody incident in the south.

Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron left the cabinet session earlier this morning and traveled by helicopter to the scene of the incident. Deputy Chief of Staff Major General Ehud Baraq gave the ministers a general review of the circumstances of the incident, but no debate was held. We heard the reaction of Minister Ehud Olmert during an interval in the cabinet session.

[Olmert] My reaction is, first of all, one of restraint pending a full examination of all the circumstances and facts. I think the most important thing is that responsibility for preventing border infiltrations should rest with the country from which such infiltrations take place. I assume that we will be in contact with the Egyptians to make sure that they are aware of this fact. I have no reason to believe that they will not be. I believe they realize that such infiltrations entail dangers which must be prevented at all costs.

[Gutman] Do you think that responsibility for this infiltration rests with the Egyptian Government and Army?

[Olmert] Look, I do not want to make such generalizations or resort to unnecessary provocations. Naturally, by definition, each country must bear responsibility for its own side of the border. I believe the Egyptians will do whatever is necessary.

[Gutman] Do you think there is a link between all the terror incidents of the last two days?

[Olmert] I do not know enough about the circumstances of all the incidents to draw such a conclusion. I doubt that this is possible. But, even if the incidents are not linked, each incident is bad on its own merit.

[Gutman] Minister Moshe Qatzav of the Likud also pointed an accusing finger at Egypt.

[Qatzav] Egypt must realize its responsibility over its entire sovereign territory, including watching over its joint border with Israel.

[Gutman] Lt. Gen. Dan Shomron returned to the Prime Minister's Office during an interval in the cabinet session, and briefed the prime minister and the defense minister about the exact circumstances of the incident. Israel will now act through diplomatic channels to convey to Egypt its aggravation over the infiltration. As said, Egyptian Ambassador Basyuni is currently conferring with Foreign Minister Levi to convey the Egyptian Government's reaction to the incident. [end recording]

Shomron on 'Border of Peace'

TA2511201690 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Interview with Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, the chief of staff, by military reporter Moshe Shlonsky, "a few minutes ago"; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Shlonsky] Mr. Chief of Staff, was the Army taken by surprise by this morning's bloody incident on the Egyptian border, or had you anticipated something like this in the wake of the Temple Mount event?

[Shomron] First of all, I would like to express my own and the Army's condolences to the bereaved families and to wish speedy recovery to the wounded.

As for your question: The Egyptian border is different from those in the north and the east. The Egyptian border is a border of peace, and I suggest that we should never make the mistake of regarding this border as one where war is being waged or where a danger of war exists. This would be both a factual and a psychological error.

[Shlonsky] Still, after the horrendous events on the Temple Mount and a number of incidents on the Jordanian border, we could have foreseen that someone—a lunatic or a fanatic—would do something similar to what happened this morning.

[Shomron] Well, I would like to tell you that it has been about a year since the last infiltration of terrorists from the Egyptian border. In that instance, all the terrorists were killed. Because this is a border of peace, we maintain a dialogue with the Egyptians and we have created apparatuses that help to maintain security on both sides of the border. The terrible incident of this morning proves my point: We informed the Egyptians of the incident and the terrorist was indeed apprehended.

[Shlonsky] This may be true for the Egyptians, but as for us, since we did feel apprehension—I am not saying forewarning, but there was apprehension in the past month—could we not have instructed our soldiers to travel in pairs and to be armed? Could we not have arranged for appropriate civilian traffic that would have perhaps prevented this incident?

[Shomron] The instructions regarding the carrying of weapons and the protection of personnel transport—both military and civilian—are clear. At the same time, this is a border of peace where people travel on a main road that lies very close—sometimes as close as a few dozen meters—to the Egyptian border. This is our practice on a peaceful border, which is entirely different from the northern border, for instance, where we expect to encounter armed, well-organized terrorist squads against which we take appropriate action, including initiated operations. Our paratroopers carried out such an operation a week ago, last night the Navy did the same, and occasionally the Air Force carries out preplanned raids.

This is one way to operate. We resort to different methods on the Jordanian border, where a cease-fire is in effect.

[Shlonsky] What you are in fact saying is that tomorrow morning another such incident can occur along the peace border with Egypt.

[Shomron] I cannot say that no incident will ever take place on the Egyptian border. If you suggest that we start treating the Egyptian border as we do the northern or even the Jordanian border, this would mean that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will invest all its resources, personnel, and equipment in protecting our lines and mortgage its future as a combat army vis-a-vis rival armies.

[Shlonsky] Today the cabinet approved the appointment of Ehud Baraq as the next chief of staff. Although the appointment only becomes valid in four months, will not the early announcement impair the last four months of your tenure?

[Shomron] First of all, I think that Ehud Baraq is an excellent choice out of a number of good candidates. I wish him and us much success. As for me, I will transfer my duties to him in the smoothest way possible.

To the best of my understanding, the fact that the decision was made today allows for the carrying out of the expected reshuffling of various command positions in an orderly fashion.

[Shlonsky] Were you consulted on, or at least informed of the decision?

[Shomron] Both informed and consulted.

[Shlonsky] Thank you very much.

[Shomron] Thank you.

Ben-Aharon Views Attack, Bush-Shamir Meeting

TA2611054990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] The director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Yosi Ben-Aharon, said yesterday's bloody attack along the Egyptian border was apparently part of a series of incidents by pro-Iraqi elements meant to divert attention from the Gulf crisis. Reporter Ya'aqov Rosenberg interviewed Ben-Aharon:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Aharon] Iraq and those who are the fellow travelers of Saddam Husayn would like to attract attention away from the Gulf and to create incidents and to show, to demonstrate ostensibly that the real front is here, right here, between Israel and the Arab countries. I think they will fail in achieving this objective. Nevertheless, of course we cannot but take very seriously attempts, whether by lone individuals or by various organizations, such as those that took place from across the Jordanian border to hit at Israelis. We are not open game for anybody, and we are going to have to take measures as well. And we expect our neighbors to do whatever is necessary in order to prevent such incidents from taking place from within their territories.

[Rosenberg] Can you give me any update regarding a possible U.S. invitation to Prime Minister Shamir to meet with George Bush next month? From the reports we hear, Bush has offered such a meeting, but the conditions remain unclear.

[Ben-Aharon] I can only refer you to what President Bush himself said in that press conference in Cairo on Friday, when he was standing with President Mubarak. This was the first reference to the possible invitation. Of course, we always consider such a meeting as something positive; among friends and allies these meetings are very helpful in creating the necessary friendly and cooperative atmosphere between the two heads of state, and, of course, this impacts on the work between us and the American Government on all levels and the bureaucracy. In a way, that strengthens the harmony, coordination, and cooperation at all levels. I think such a meeting will be beneficial, and, of course, the question of the timing and invitation is a matter for both sides to coordinate, and I will be in touch with the U.S. officials in due time. [end recording]

Shamir Lauds Thatcher Leadership, Contributions

TA2411181690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has greatly praised Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, writing to her that during her leadership in Britain and under her international inspiration she had gained the respect and admiration of many nations around the world, including Israel. Our correspondent reports that in response to Thatcher's message Mr. Shamir emphasizes that under Mrs. Thatcher's leadership Israel's relations with Britain, especially in the field of commerce, have strengthened.

Aime To Visit After 'Freedom of Action' Assured

TA2511105290 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 25 Nov 90 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar will send his personal emissary Jean-Claude Aime to Israel, after having received an explicit promise over the weekend that Jerusalem has no intention of limiting Aime's mission in any way.

Political sources in Jerusalem reported that the delay in dispatching Aime stemmed from the secretary general's fear that Israel would constrict Aime's freedom of action. It has now been made clear to him that, as long as the emissary's mission is not connected to the Security Council's resolutions on the Temple Mount incident, there is no intention to hinder him in any way. [passage omitted]

'Clear Change' Seen in Syrian Conference Stance

TA2311100590 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
23 Nov 90 p 1

["First, exclusive" report by Shmu'el Segev]

[Text] The meeting between Bush and al-Asad is the culmination of a process that has developed slowly since al-Asad's visit to Moscow in April 1987 and Mikhail Gorbachev's call on the Syrians to abandon belligerency and embark on the path of peaceful negotiations. On his return to Damascus, al-Asad launched an initiative, the essence of which is the gradual elimination of reliance on the USSR and a corresponding gradual move toward the United States.

Before the U.S. announcement on the meeting between Bush and al-Asad, Syria took an additional step, the details of which are published here for the first time. This came in the form of a message to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar in which Syria announced that it supports "an overall and just settlement" of the Israeli-Arab conflict "on the basis of UN resolutions and an international conference along the 1973 model of the Geneva conference, under UN auspices and with the participation of the United States and the Soviet Union." In its message, Syria expressed its belief that "another meeting of the Geneva conference will constitute an appropriate opportunity to reach a just and stable peace."

This Syrian announcement marks a clear change from the positions al-Asad had previously taken, and it meshes with the promises the Syrian president made to Carter and Baker. A comparison between this announcement and an earlier one in September 1989 shows several important differences:

—Syria is now prepared to settle for the reconvocation of the Geneva conference with the participation of the two major superpowers alone, having forgone the demand for the full complement of the permanent members of the Security Council. This formula was suggested, as will be recalled, by former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in the summer of 1988, but was turned down by Jordan and the PLO.

—It appears that Syria—contrary to its previous position—will now be satisfied to grant the international conference only a secondary role, similar to the one it had in the first Geneva conference. A central role will be assigned to the bilateral committees.

—In its recent announcement, Syria fails to mention the PLO as a party whose invitation to Geneva is mandatory.

—Finally, Syria does not at all mention the East Jerusalem issue, making do with very generalized formulations.

The meeting between Bush and al-Asad will probably clarify some of the points related to that process. What is clear, however, is that very interesting developments are taking place beneath the surface and that they require that Jerusalem monitor them far more carefully if it does not want to be surprised once again, as it has been several times in the recent past.

Navy Adjusts Red Sea Presence Against Terrorists

TA2511133290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] The Navy commander has said that in recent months terrorists have intensified their attempts to attack Israel via the sea, as well as using other methods. In a talk with reporters in Haifa, he said that in view of the increase in terrorist attacks along the Jordanian border, the Navy has adjusted its deployment in the Red Sea in a bid to prevent terrorist infiltration from Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt.

Rear Admiral Mikha Ram added that yesterday's incident, in which a terrorist boat was destroyed, lasted a mere 20 seconds. The commander of the Dabur boat, which sank the terrorists, today was promoted from lieutenant to captain.

Kakh Pressures Shops To Fire Arab Workers

TA2511143690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] A greengrocer's store was set on fire and damaged in Jerusalem's Ge'ula neighborhood. The reason behind the deed was the employment of an Arab by the store, on the walls of which Kakh slogans had been painted. Store owners and merchants from various parts of Jerusalem have recently begun displaying Kakh signs stating that they employ Jews only. The Kakh movement has set up special headquarters for that purpose.

Shop owners told our reporter that they are being pressured to dismiss Arab workers; some of them have filed complaints with the police.

Rallies Protest U.S. President's Visit To Gulf

JN2311195990 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] The one Jordanian family all over the various governorates of the Kingdom has stressed Jordan's position toward Arab issues and denounced the objectives U.S. President Bush's visit to a number of the countries of the region. More details in the following report:

[Video shows large crowds of people carrying pictures of King Husayn and Saddam Husayn, Palestinian flags, and signs in Arabic and English such as "The American Invasion Targets Every Arab," "The Intifadah Is a Support for the Steadfastness of Iraq; Iraq's Steadfastness Is a Support for the Intifadah," "No to Bush's Visit, Yes to the Arab Solution"] Leading the rallies and marches that spread all over the governorates of the Kingdom today were the speaker of the House of Representatives and a number of House members, representatives of Jordanian popular sectors, and thousands of citizens, who praised the pan-Arab stance of His Majesty King Husayn and expressed Jordan's unswerving defense of the rights and just causes of the Arab and Islamic world, primarily the Palestine question.

At the end of every march, a speech rally was held. A number of speakers spoke of how proud they were of the position taken by the Jordanian family, leadership and people, toward Arab rights and of its pursuance of Arab self-reliance and emphasis on the need to iron out Arab differences and problems within the Arab context. The speakers also denounced the objectives of the U.S. President's visit to a number of the countries in the region, describing this visit as part of a U.S. policy that lacks credibility and uses double standards at the expense of the causes of the Arab nation. Speakers called for support for the positive efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis within the context of indivisible legitimacy. They also said it was necessary to work for an international peace conference to settle all the problems of the region, including the Palestine question and Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon and the Golan, in addition to the Gulf crisis.

A number of international political figures and strugglers for just, rightful causes also took part in the rallies. Among them was Mr. William Brown, who represents the Vietnam Veteran's Association. [Video shows House Speaker 'Arabiyat speaking into a microphone flanked by two other men; caption identifies the locale as the city of Salt] He criticized the U.S. Administration's policy and military buildup in the Gulf. He explained that the American people do not know the truth. He said: When the American people learn the truth, the picture will change because among the Americans are people who denounce war and call for peace.

Brotherhood Reportedly Shun Anti-Bush Rally

JN2411084290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Nov 90 p 3

[By Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—Jordanians protested against the visit of U.S. President George Bush to the Middle East with people taking the streets of downtown Amman after Friday noon prayers and carrying anti-Bush banners and shouting anti-American slogans.

"No to the Bush visit. Yes to the Arab solution," and "By self reliance we will push you out, Bush," read a couple of banners carried by youth who started their march from the al-Wahdat Palestinian refugee camp to the al-Hashimiyah square near the Roman amphitheatre where a rally took place.

An elderly man wearing a black and white chequered kufiyah sat on the shoulders of the younger demonstrators and shouted anti-American slogans as his red face glowed. Demonstrators clapped and repeated his slogans as he flashed a toothless smile and waved his wooden cane in the air.

The protest, organised by the Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA) was expected to include several marches from different areas in Amman and to end in the downtown square where the rally took place. Organisers expected to draw more participants than 1,500 demonsrators that were present in the square.

JANDA, a coalition which includes leftist and nationalist parties and individuals, announced earlier in the week that the demonstration would try to attract as many people as possible to protest Bush's visit to the Middle East. The alliance and other political groupings advertised the rally in local papers, and a JANDA spokesman said that the Muslim Brotherhood were welcome to join in.

The protestors were scheduled to meet at Al-Husayn Mosque downtown and march together to the al-Hashimiyah square, hoping they would attract the Friday noon worshippers, according to a leftist activist who did not want to be identified.

Observers were astonished to find that there were relatively few worshippers at Al-Husayn Mosque which it is usually filled to the sidewalk with people attending Friday prayers.

The leftist activist said it seemed that the Muslim Brotherhood "had purposely not participated in the march to prove that they were able to better mobilise the masses than the left."

Riot police and security men were scattered in the streets of the capital in preparation for a possible outbreak of violence before the mu'ezzin announced noon prayers on the loudspeakers of the mosques. Security men soon left their positions after the end of the rally.

Jordanian, Palestinian and Iraqi flags were waved and banners hung on the upper walls surrounding the large al-Hashemiah square with slogans denouncing the American-led intervention in the Gulf and insisting that Arabs live in dignity.

Some of the banners read: "We would rather die hungry than die kneeling to America," "Death to the greedy American invaders, victory to the will of the people," "We will not surrender... we will not kneel... we will defend our sovereignty and independence."

Enthusiastic youth gathered around foreign television network crews to explain their position and the reasons behind their stance against American policy in the Middle East.

Speakers at the rally criticised Bush's visit to the region—where he visited Saudi Arabia and Egypt—saying it was a provocation to the will of the Arab masses for independence from "American and imperialist hegemony."

Al-Karak communist Deputy Isa Mdanat called on fighting American interests wherever they may be, and other speakers called on arming Jordanians to defend their country should Israel decide to attack the Kingdom.

Editorial Views Bush Visit, Israeli Expansion

JN2311160790 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
22 Nov 90 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "How Does the Arab Individual View Bush's Arrival in the Region?"]

[Text] President Bush arrived in the region yesterday under the shadow of the hugest aggressive military deployment ever witnessed in the region's history. His arrival was preceded by the most impudent Israeli expansionist statement ever made since the beginning of the Palestine question. He also brought with him a suspect silence on this disgraceful, provocative statement with which Shamir has challenged all UN resolutions and disdained international legitimacy, announcing that he is determined to go ahead with Greater Israel and not give up the occupied Arab territories. Yes, under all these negative signs, Bush has come to the region, as if he carried in his hands the keys with which he could turn back the clock and force the peoples of the region to bow to imperialist-Zionist hegemony, which has massed its forces in a manner unprecedented in history.

Thus, it becomes clear that there is a strong connection between the aggressive military presence in the Gulf, the Israeli declaration about expanding from the river to the sea, and the U.S. President's arrival in the region. The Israeli statement came in light of this military presence, and the U.S. President's arrival in the region came after the statement. Thus, all parts of the picture are now available and the picture now looks clear. It shows that protecting Israel in the expansion phase, absorption of the new immigrants, and imposition of a new map on the Arabs are the real motives for the imperialist deployment in the Gulf and the United States' rejection of the peace efforts to achieve an early solution to the crisis. They are also the motives for Washington's refusal to talk to Baghdad and link the issues in the region, and, even, for its rejection of the Iraqi offer to release the foreign guests in Iraq and Kuwait in stages. This shows that the United States is interested in maintaining the Gulf crisis so that it can keep the foreign troops deployed there, not in their capacity as a desert shield as it claims, but as a shield for the new Israel.

President Bush will be making a big mistake if he thinks he can cover up this objective which has become known to everyone. He will also be making a mistake if he thinks he can impose a new Israeli expansion on the region under the cover of the Gulf crisis. The Arab people are deeply convinced that any aggression against Iraq only aims at depriving the Arabs from the force capable of confronting Israeli expansionism. They also understand that by maintaining the crisis, Washington wants to neutralize the Iraqi force in relation to this expansion. At any rate, the Arab peoples will not abandon Iraq and will not stand idle in the face of the evil expansion.

Therefore, Washington should understand that the Arab individual's reservations on the visit Bush has begun to the region clearly express decisive rejection of the suspect U.S.-Israeli role in the region, and confirm that the Arab people will not allow imperialism and Zionism to impose a new reality on the Arab people's arena.

Bush Cairo Remarks, Shamir Meeting Criticized

JN2411131490 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
24 Nov 90 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Bush Defies the Arabs and Blesses Shamir"]

[Text] At a predeparture news conference in Cairo yesterday, President Bush addressed a challenge to the Arab nation by declaring that he was looking forward to meeting with Shamir next month, and by saying that he was happy in advance about that meeting. He said this while barely a few days have passed since Shamir's declaration that defied the Arabs, the world, and the international community, in which he said that Israel will not withdraw from the Arab territories it is occupying, that it will increase settlement activity in Jerusalem, and that it will not receive the mission that the UN Security Council recommended be dispatched to the occupied territories to investigate the Al-Aqasa Mosque massacre. Thus, Bush has blessed the Israeli aggressive position and turned a deaf ear to Shamir's defiance of the international community. While he received this defiance with no worldwide uproar, he continues making threats and warnings against Iraq on the pretext of defending the international community. Had Bush felt any respect for the international community and the Arab nation, he would have hastened to cancel the meeting with Shamir until he accepts the UN Security Council resolutions on the Palestine question, or at least until he stops his provocative and open defiance of the international community. However, Bush wanted to boost Shamir's act of defiance with another of his own to the Arab nation when he told it loudly and clearly that he and the Israeli prime minister were standing in the same trench.

This conclusion reveals why the U.S. President insists on rejecting linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question in terms of international action on them. At the same time, he is linking them himself by using the Gulf crisis as a pretext for dealing a blow to Iraq to terminate the Arab power capable of confronting Israel. Thus, such a strike will be a prelude to the liquidation of the Palestine question and the imposition of a new expansionist Israeli reality seizing more Arab territory. This means that Bush rejects a positive linkage between the crisis and this question, which would lead to peace in the region, and insists on a negative linkage between them that would destroy the region so as to destroy Iraq and abort the Palestine question simultaneously.

The message of defiance sent by Bush to the Arab nation at his news conference indicates that U.S. imperialism is determined to subjugate the Arabs by force to Zionist hegemony. Undoubtedly, the Arab masses and Arab leaders that honor their responsibilities will never yield to the evil U.S.-Israeli intentions. Let Shamir have a good time with Bush, but the two will never be able to determine the Arab future.

U.S. 'Excuses' To Wage War on Iraq Viewed

JN2511093790 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Nov 90 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "The United States and the Policy of Looking for Excuses"]

[Text] No sooner had Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's TV statements been broadcast to the public yesterday following U.S. President George Bush's return to Washington than the clouds shrouding Bush's Middle East tour began to lift revealing a frenzied U.S. move to set up a U.S.-Arab military alliance aimed at placing the Arab region under U.S., and therefore Israeli hegemony forever, so that the voices calling for justice and freedom from both old and neo-imperialism would be silenced forever.

The direct result of this move of course would be deepening the current Arab split and using Arab forces as a catspaw in a dirty war against the strongest Arab power in the region.

It is obvious that Washington will not abandon its strategic objective, which remained secret for some time until it was revealed by the development of events and continuous statements; namely, destroying Iraq's power, which is considered the backbone of the Arab nation in its effort to achieve its basic objectives and fulfill its sublime aspirations.

It is clear from President Mubarak's statements to the U.S. Television Network NBC that the real objective behind the massive buildup in Hafar al-Batin is not to defend Saudi Arabia as it was mentioned at first, nor to "liberate Kuwait" as the warmonger later contended, but to actually wage war on Iraq itself and inside iraqi territory. Proof of this is Mubarak's own statement that the Egyptian forces stationed in Saudi Arabia will not take part in an attack on Iraqi territory.

Mubarak's statement falls within what can be termed "the denial that serves as a confirmation." This means Bush had concentrated on this very point during his recent tour—hence the angry Arab public demonstration in several Arab capitals over the past two days.

We can now understand the deliberate escalation of the U.S.. campaign against what is termed the Iraqi nuclear threat. Officials and columnists in several U.S. papers have vyed with one another in their warnings against the growth and danger of this nuclear threat to U.S. interests and the security of Israel in particular.

President Bush joined this campaign by warning against what he termed the growing Iraqi nuclear threat to justify before the U.S. Congress, which rejects war, any action he might take to launch an attack on Iraq. Yet, the U.S. president ignores the real nuclear danger in the region represented by Israel. Washington does not consider the Israeli nuclear threat a source of danger.

The nuclear threat is not represented by Baghdad, which permitted international inspectors to confirm that its nuclear reactors are being used for peaceful purposes, but by Israel which has announced through its President Hayim Herzog that it possesses a deterrent nuclear weapon which is known to the United States and others.

The suspect U.S. move is aimed at looking for excuses to launch war and to remove the U.S. public's opposition to this war by alleging an Iraqi nuclear threat, involving Arab forces in starting this war, intervening on the pretext of defending allies, and finally waging the war itself with all the arsenal it has built up in Hafar al-Batin and the Gulf waters.

Therefore, it behooves the Arabs, especially the allies of the United States, to be particularly careful about the dimensions of the game in which they have involved themselves and to realize the dangers of destroying Iraq's power and the consequences of such an act on the future of the region and the coming Arab generations which will curse them until doomsday.

Columnist Says War Aim Exposes Pro-U.S. Arabs

JN2511120490 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Nov 90 pp 22

["Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah: "The Kuwaiti Fig Leaf Has Dropped!!"]

[Text] Washington refuses to dispatch a four-man UN team to simply observe the massacres which are being committed by Israel on the land of Palestine, southern Lebanon, and the Golan. Yet when it comes to Kuwait, the United States does not mind stationing 400,000 American soldiers with their planes, tanks, fleets, and 450 nuclear warheads!

This U.S. boorishness and contempt is understood, well known, and established. For, no one denies that the Israeli butchering weapon is an American weapon, that the salaries of those working in the Israeli slaughterhouse come from the U.S. Treasury, and that the protection of Israeli criminals in the United Nations and the world is provided by the United States. But what cannot be understood or comprehended is the acceptance by certain Arabs, who have Arab names, hold Arab citizenships, and speak to us in our own Arabic language, to display the same U.S. boorishness and contempt. They have turned their backs on Palestine, southern Lebanon, and the Golan and joined forces with the United States in Hafar al-Batin!!

Whom does the Egyptian president, and the others, want to fight? What secret does the Egyptian president hide about the mission of the Egyptian Army in Hafar al-Batin? Are there any more secrets left now that the United States has declared war on Iraq?

The Kuwaiti fig leaf has dropped, leaving some people naked. Still, Saddam Husayn gave some value to the Egyptian president in the eyes of his American friends, made the Gulf rulers give him some money, and helped him keep the Kuwaiti fig leaf on when he proposed his 12 August initiative to achieve "international legitimacy" in Palestine, Lebanon, the Golan, and Kuwait. But the pro-U.S. Arabs prefer to remain naked on the Arabian sands. They do not feel any shame before the American women soldiers!! Why should they when they do not feel ashamed before their nation?

For the millions of Arabs, Kuwait is no longer the issue. This is also understood by the world and U.S. Senator Nunn, who called on the "Arab coalition" to achieve direct peace with "Israel." The senators and others are asking: If Iraq is the only enemy to the coalition, and if Israel is the main beneficiary from the war of the Americans and their allies, why are matters not very clear? We, in turn, are asking: If the "Arab coalition" is not concerned about the Palestinians, the Lebanese, and the Syrians in the Golan, why shouldn't Israel be included in Hafar al-Batin? Why should the naked Arabs be ashamed by the inclusion of Israel in this unholy alliance?

President Bush feels "frustrated" by the treatment of Americans in Iraq and Kuwait and he is preparing for an immediate war. But the President is not frustrated by the treatment of one and a half million Palestinians who have been living in a state of continuous curfew, murder, expulsion, and detention for half a century. The other president, who is trying to keep up with Bush, does not consider it essential to feel frustrated about the Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese hostages. The important thing to the president is Hafar al-Batin!!

Long live the true Arabs!!

U.S. Continues Monitoring Border With Iraq

JN2511124990 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Nov 90 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Caroline Faraj]

[Text] Amman—American Embassy staff members are reported to still make trips to the border posts, near the Iraqi-Jordanian frontiers and along the Iraq-Jordan main highway, in a bid to ensure that Jordan is adhering to the sanctions resolution imposed on Iraq by the U.N. Security Council.

The question raised in Parliament last week by several deputies drew a reply from Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salim Masa'idah who said that an American embassy vehicle stationed at the al-Ruwayshid post had been pulled out at the request of the Jordanian government. But monitoring the traffic of trucks and cars along the road is being maintained by individual embassy staff members in violation of all diplomatic norms and as an act of interference in Jordan's internal affairs.

As Parliament was holding its first session last week two American embassy cars were spotted at al-Safawi and on the desert highway to keep watch despite the fact that all roads from and to Iraq are closely watched by security forces as Jordan is totally committed to the sanctions resolutions and bar any trucks from going to or coming from Iraq with goods.

The Jordanian side is also barring any shipments of food and medical supplies until the government receives specific clarification on this point from the Security Council's Sanctions committee, according to government officials.

Jordanian citizens living in al-Safawi district told the Jordan Times that American Embassy staff vehicles are daily spotted around the border area and that many foreigners with cameras are lingering around the border areas taking photos of any movements. These foreigners are permanently stationed in the desert regions and have rented lodging facilities from the local inhabitants, according to eyewitnesses.

American war ships were earlier reported stopping all al-'Aqabah-bound vessels for search, causing long delays in the arrival of shipments to al-'Aqabah.

According to al-'Aqabah Port officials, an American official representing the State Department has visited the port city several times last month in a bid to meet officials and shipping agents and merchants.

Adolph Kattouf, head of the Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Palestine desk at the State Department, was said to have engaged Lebanese photographers to take photos of the harbour at al-'Aqabah, but eventually he was barred from pursuing his efforts by the Jordanian authorities.

Kattouf, of Syrian origin, was said to have made tours of Amman's commercial and business districts to discuss questions pertaining to the Gulf crisis with Jordanian merchants and citizens. A number of those who met Kattouf reported that he was advocating resistance to Saddam Husayn's policies in the region and said that the United States would never provide any assistance to Jordan, even though the Kingdom applied sanctions against Iraq, until the Jordanian public halted support for Iraq.

The British Embassy here is also reported to have sent its military attache to al-'Aqabah where he met officials and businessmen. The attache was quoted by officials as saying that his country would be willing to provide assistance to Jordan and help stimulate the tourism industry in the port city provided Jordanian media stopped attacks on his country and Margaret Thatcher.

American and British embassies staff members have also been active in the local markets of Amman trying to find out which merchants, if any, were trying to dispatch goods to Iraq. These officials, together with foreign correspondents, were reportedly providing the American Administration with lists of Jordanian merchants alleged to have deals with Iraq in order to prevent their goods from reaching al-'Aqabah.

Jordanian officials told the Jordan Times that all diplomatic missions had been requested to conduct their business through the Foreign Ministry, especially in dealings with the private sector. They said that arrangements for all extra diplomatic activity should be concerted with the Ministry of Interior, especially when they regard press conferences and official meetings.

Columnist Questions U.S. Embassy Activities

JN2411104690 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
24 Nov 90 p 26

["Frankly Speaking" column by Sultan Hattab: "So That Violations Are Not Repeated, We Demand More Questions Be Asked"]

[Text] The House of Representatives has taken an honorable, praiseworthy position in its new term by exposing the issue of foreign intervention in our country's internal affairs. We also appreciate the questions it asked the government concerning what U.S. Embassy personnel were doing at al-Ruwayshid and other areas and why they were carrying equipment, transported by private cars, and accompanied by local guides. Another question the government was asked was why U.S. Embassy personnel were deployed in areas far away from the crossing points on the road and what tasks they were carrying out on and behind our borders.

By exposing these events, the House of Representatives proved that it has a vigilant eye, a living conscience, and an impulse to know.

The press has written about this issue, and it was afraid that the issue would be forgotten. However, the House of Representatives picked up and adopted what the press has said. Asked by the Parliament about this issue, the government admitted that practices encroaching on our national sovereignty were actually committed on our border.

Can we feel comfortable now that we have picked up the end of the threat, which will lead to the disclosure of other violations that have not been revealed?

I did not want to say that the exposure of what took place on our eastern border in al-Ruwayshid and other areas was due to the Public Security Department, but I must remark that a long period of time passes between the time these practices were uncovered and the time they were revealed after the Parliament's questioning.

This is not the first time that such serious violations have taken place, but it is certainly the first time that such violations have been exposed. For nearly two years, U.S. Embassy personnel, from the ambassador down, have been roaming our cities, villages, and desert, entering our universities to deliver and hear lectures, and paying private visits to houses without informing or asking permission from the Foreign Ministry, and perhaps without intervention or protest by the Foreign Ministry.

While noting Parliament's honorable position on our national security, sovereignty, and independence, we urge the House to question the government about other embassies' intervention in our internal affairs and the holding of contacts with citizens, journalists, and officials outside the permitted context of contacts. These embassies have violated the traditions of diplomatic activity, and applied pressures on writers, journalists, unionists, and holders of principles to make them change their principles.

The complaints of many of those who have been affected by the policy of temptations and threats have been overlooked by some concerned officials. This has harmed many people psychologically and morally and their mission of serving the homeland and the country's interests.

We hope that the House of Representatives in its new term will ask questions about this issue, which has been going on for months and which has been a topic of discussion at most political meetings and gatherings. Some journalists, writers, intellectuals, political and social figures, and unionists have evidence about the policy of extortion, intimidation, and temptations that has been exercised against them.

If the esteemed House of Representatives has exposed the U.S. Embassy's practices, we hope that it will expose others, so that everyone, near and far, knows that we are not an easy target and that sooner or later we are capable of responding to these practices.

Editorials Say Security Council U.S. 'Tool'

SAWT AL-SHA'B

JN2611072190 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Nov 90 p 16

[Editorial: "The Security Council and the Effect of U.S. Pressures on its Activity"]

[Text] It seems that the Security Council has almost been turned into a pliable tool in the hands of the United States. It seems also that the Security Council is ready to use double standards and adopt contradictory positions on similar cases. For, the Security Council is ready to address warnings and ultimatums to Iraq according to the desire of the Bush administration. At the same time, however, the Security Council defers discussions on the protection of Palestinians, who are being subjected to the ugliest campaign of annihilation and torture at the hands of the Zionist occupation authorities, in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Security Council has issued, under the influence of U.S. pressure, 10 resolutions against Iraq within three months. However, over a longer period, and owing to U.S. pressure, the Security Council has failed to issue a single resolution to ensure the protection of Palestinians in the occupied territories. Moreover, the Security Council has deferred discussion on the protection of Palestinians until further notice without specifying a date for this discussion so as to keep the specter of the explosive situation in the occupied territories at a distance and prevent it from influencing any resolution it might issue against Iraq. At the same time, it decided to devote the session next Thursday to issuing a new resolution against Iraq warning it against staying in Kuwait, on the basis that this resolution should be the last chance of diplomatic activity, and that after that there will remain only the military option.

Thus, the Security Council meetings are held or deferred according to the wish of the U.S. Administration and not according to the importance and urgency of the issues under discussion.

Such an unfair situation, which is experienced by this international organization under the influence of U.S. pressures, will not serve peace and security and stability worldwide.

Therefore, the Security Council members, be they representatives of big or small countries, should not be surprised if Iraq rejects this warning. For, when it rejects their warning or any resolution they might issue, it rejects in fact the U.S. warning and resolution and not the decision of the international community, which is supposed to be fair.

If this international organization remains subject to the influence of U.S. pressure, it will become paralyzed and will remain unable to deal with any important international affair.

AL-RA'Y

JN2611081890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Nov 90 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "Will the Security Council Become a Puppet"]

[Text] The UN Security Council has not been able to discuss the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories and decide on the draft resolution presented to it, which calls for dispatching international observers to these territories as a measure to protect the Palestinians there. Likewise, the Security Council has not decided on another draft resolution calling for a meeting by the signatories to the fourth Geneva convention as a measure on the same issue. Thus, the oppressive Israeli measures in the occupied territories have not been countered with any practical measures by the Council. The pretext was that the Council is preoccupied with the U.S. draft resolution calling for measures allowing the use of force against Iraq.

Obviously, this alleged preoccupation is only a cover for Washington's insistence on preventing the Security Council from carrying out its responsibilities of protecting the Palestinians in the occupied territories. Moreover, this preoccupation itself is based on unnecessary urgency because the peaceful endeavors to settle the Gulf crisis have not been exhausted and because these efforts must be given sufficient time to realize the desired results.

Apparently, Washington does not want the Council to adopt resolutions on any issue that Washington does not adopt. Therefore it continues to harass the Council by invoking the Gulf crisis, preventing it from discussing Israeli crimes in the occupied territories. If these conditions continue, we cannot rule out a gradual shrinking in the Council's influence causing it to lose part of its credibility. Perhaps the United States wants to realize these two results in order to prove its undisputed domination of international issues and create the conviction that it is the only power capable of directing the course of events and taking decisions on them, either directly by itself or through the Security Council

The suffering of the Palestinians in the occupied territory is a brand of shame of which the Council's permanent members cannot wash their hands. The alleged preoccupation with the Gulf or other crises is negligence that cannot be defended and is perhaps a kind of contempt of the Palestinian people's right to protection that international rules ensure for them on their own soil.

The Palestinians and the Arabs at large have been at the forefront of peoples who optimistically received the end of the cold war and the trend toward building a new world order. However, the American performance which aims to control the highest UN authority, which is the Security Council, has sparked fears that the new world order might transform the Council into a puppet and that this order would be established on the ruins of principles on which the UN was established.

The pretext for ignoring the Palestinian suffering on their own soil is a new warning to the Arabs, who must understand its contents and significance. Pretexts will not end with the end of the Gulf crisis. The end of this crisis is perhaps rather the beginning of eliminating the Palestinian cause altogether if those who are hiding behind the crisis could direct to fraternal Iraq the blow which they are preparing for it.

U.S. 'Piracy' on Ships to Al-'Aqabah Reported

*JN2511113090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
25 Nov 90 pp 18, 13*

[By Hani al-Duwayk]

[Excerpt] U.S. military forces and those allied with them have continued their piracy against ships heading for the port of al-'Aqabah. Shipping sources have cited the captain of a French military cruiser, who prevented the ship C.S. France two days ago from entering al-'Aqabah, as saying that in the next weeks all ships bound for the Jordanian port will be subjected to a thorough examination, and that it is possible they may be prevented from continuing to serve al-'Aqabah and Jordanian foreign sea trade.

U.S. Navy vessels yesterday prevented the German ship Premiere from entering the port of al-'Aqabah and unloading cargo that belongs to Jordanian merchants. The cargo consists of 41 containers loaded in Italy and Cyprus.

Tawfiq Qa'war, head of the Jordanian maritime shipping agents, said that agents will hold an emergency meeting as soon as possible to study the serious situation, which is getting worse, and to urge officials at the highest levels to adopt measures necessary to stop the blockade which, as clearly revealed, has been extended from a blockade on Iraqi cargo to a blockade on al-'Aqabah port as a whole. It has become evident that Jordan is now the target. [passage omitted]

Canadian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

Met at Airport

*JN2411133690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 24 Nov 90*

[Text] Charles Joseph Clark, Canadian secretary of state for external affairs, arrived in Amman at noon today on a two-day visit to Jordan. He will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and officials to discuss the situation in the Arabian Gulf and bilateral relations.

Receiving the Canadian minister was Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Comments on Gulf Crisis

*NC2411221890 Paris AFP in English
1257 GMT 24 Nov 90*

[Text] Amman, Nov 24 (AFP)—Canadian External Affairs Minister Joe Clark said here Saturday that Western hostages held in Iraq should not be turned into a bargaining chip.

"Iraq should not be keeping those people captive under any circumstances and they certainly should not be using these individuals as bargaining chips," he told reporters on his arrival for talks with King Husayn on the Gulf crisis.

Iraq is detaining some 3,000 Westerners and Japanese since it invaded Kuwait on August 2.

Mr. Clark said he would seek the views of Jordanian officials "on how we might bring a peaceful end to the crisis and how we must persuade (Iraqi President) Saddam Husayn to move peacefully out of Kuwait."

The Canadian minister said he was not carrying any specific messages to officials here.

"I naturally will convey to his majesty and the Jordanian government my sense of some views of the coalition of countries (that) have troops or a presence in the Gulf and also some developments in the (United Nations) Security Council," he said.

He was referring to the multinational troop buildup, including Canadian forces, massed against Iraq in the Gulf region and Saudi Arabia and to U.S. efforts to muster support for the use of force to push Iraq out of Kuwait.

Mr. Clark, who arrived from Ankara, will continue his regional tour with visits to Egypt and Israel, Canadian diplomats said.

Meets King Husayn

*JN2411172890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 24 Nov 90*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Charles Joseph Clark, Canadian secretary of state for external affairs, at al-Nadwah Palace today.

They reviewed developments in the Gulf crisis and exchanged views on the possibilities of a political settlement of the crisis. The talks also dealt with Jordanian-Canadian relations. His Majesty King Husayn expressed deep satisfaction with the progress of these relations in all fields, and stressed Jordan's interest in further promoting them.

The Canadian minister praised these relations and said his country understood the difficulties Jordan has faced as a result of the Gulf crisis; Canada is in sympathy with the efforts under way to support Jordan and to enable it to confront the effects of the crisis on the country's economic situation.

The Royal Court chief, His Majesty King Husayn's political adviser, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the delegation accompanying Mr. Clark, and the Canadian ambassador to Jordan attended the meeting.

Meets With Al-Qasim

JN2511121190 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Charles Joseph Clark, Canadian secretary of state for external affairs, in his office today.

The two ministers held an official round of talks, in the presence of members of the Jordanian and Canadian delegations. They reviewed developments in the Gulf crisis and the efforts being made to resolve it peacefully. They also discussed relations between the two countries and means of promoting them in all fields.

Holds Press Conference

JN2511122590 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] His majesty the king received at al-Nadwah Palace this morning Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark. [passage omitted]

The Canadian foreign minister held more talks on the Gulf and bilateral ties with Jordanian officials. Details with Maha al-Sha'ir:

The Canadian Minister for External Affairs Mr. Joe Clark and the Jordanian Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Marwan al-Qasim held an extended meeting, with Canadian and Jordanian delegates attending. Discussion started with bilateral relations between the two countries and the recent developments in the region. After the discussion in the Ministry, Mr. Joe Clark held a press conference where he noted his country's position regarding the Gulf crisis:

"The position of the Government of Canada is known with regard to our requirement that Iraq move out of Kuwait. I will be stating that privately and publicly, as I will be stating our views that it is far preferable to achieve a peaceful solution, and as I will be repeating the very clear message that Saddam Husayn should not underestimate the determination and the resolution of the countries who are part of the coalition in the Gulf. The ultimate security for the people who are not free to leave Kuwait and not free to leave Iraq would be to have this crisis ended. And we believe that the actions of the United Nations, and Canada among them, encouraging Saddam Husayn to move back peacefully from Kuwait, is the most effective guarantee of that result."

The multinational forces are there to display a clear threat of force:

"As to the use of force, we believe that what is most important here is a clear threat of force, that is only credible if Saddam Husayn understands that we will use it if necessary, but that is not our preference."

But what's necessary, Mr. Joe Clark could not define:

"I can't define what is necessary now. Are we giving peace a chance? We certainly are. We think that the consequences of a war here would be—of the continuation of the war that was begun by the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq—would be extremely serious, reaching well beyond this region around the world. So we want that not to happen. We are seeking peaceful solutions. It is a reality that in this case, the deployment of force can lead to peace. We are talking here about the deployment of force to persuade Saddam Husayn to withdraw peacefully from Kuwait."

Although Mr. Clark rejected the idea of linkage between all Arab problems and the Gulf crisis, he said that there is unity in the Security Council on the Palestinian question:

"I think you will find that one of the characteristics [changes thought] I think you will find the unity that has been displayed in the Security Council on questions relating to the Gulf has also been reflected in recent Security Council discussions with regard to other questions, including questions relating to Israel. I think that we have to recognize that what is at stake here, apart from the crisis itself which is important in its own merits—what is at stake here is the effectiveness of the United Nations as an organization, and it has not been more effective than it is now."

Pledges Financial Aid

JN2511123090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Nov 90 pp 1, 5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Nur al-Sati]

[Excerpts] Amman—Canada Saturday announced that it was extending aid worth 26.5 million Canadian dollars (22.88 million U.S. dollars) to Jordan to help the Kingdom offset the adverse economic impact of the Gulf crisis and the international sanctions against Iraq.

Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark also pledged that he would seek to use the "valuable" relationship between his country and the United States to ensure that the views of His Majesty King Husayn on the Gulf crisis are heard and heeded. [passage omitted]

The foreign minister, on his second visit to Jordan after assuming office in the cabinet of Brian Mulroney, said his country was sympathetic towards Jordan's economic problems resulting from the Gulf crisis.

"Jordan is on the front line (of the Gulf crisis) and it took great sacrifice," Clark said. "Canada recognises the great burden on Jordan. (Canada) was among the first countries to respond (with) aid at the onset of the Gulf crisis."

Clark said the 26.5 million Canadian dollar aid to Jordan was part of a 75-million Canadian dollar package his country has set aside to help countries economically hit by the Gulf crisis. He did not name the other countries, but indicated Bangladesh was one of them.

Clark called on countries which have pledged aid to Jordan to deliver the assistance as soon as possible. This should be the beginning to what other countries should do," he said. [passage omitted].

Concludes Visit; Al-Qasim Remarks

JN2511153590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1250 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Canada's External Affairs Minister Joe Clark left Amman this morning, ending a two-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, he was received in audience by His Majesty King Husayn. Mr. Clark had talks with senior officials on bilateral relations and regional developments, and efforts to promote a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

After the Canadian minister departed, our correspondent Khalil al-Qaryuti, interviewed Mr. Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

[Begin recording] [Al-Qaryuti] How did your talks with the Canadian foreign minister go?

[Al-Qasim] Following extremely important talks we had yesterday and this morning, the Canadians are now fully convinced that Jordan has been pursuing a positive line toward a peaceful solution through dialogue. As far as Jordan is concerned, the Canadian Government recognizes the impasse we are now in because of the Gulf crisis. They think there is an urgent need that all friendly countries help Jordan without delay. The Canadian Government is making 26 million Canadian dollars available in immediate support to Jordan to be received by the end of the year. The Canadian foreign minister appreciates Jordan's wisdom in pursuing a peaceful settlement and containment of the crisis to avert a catastrophe from the region and from others with interests in the region.

[Al-Qaryuti] What do you think of American attempts to have the UN Security Council pass a resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq?

[Al-Qasim] We would have liked nations promoting the use of force to have invested, instead, more efforts to save the situation through peaceful channels and dialogue. To give you an example: Since the foreigners in Iraq and Kuwait became an issue a few weeks into the Gulf crisis, multilateral contacts got under way involving Jordan and other parties with brotherly Iraq. These contacts have produced a decision by Iraq's top echelons to free all foreigners in Iraq and Kuwait. This has been the result of earnest, genuine contribution to solving the problems of the region. For this reason, we would very much like others to encourage and start this dialogue in earnest, with the aim of saving the region and its people, in addition to protecting the interests of nations that have established a presence here. There is an urgent need for purposeful, constructive dialogue to achieve peace predicated on legitimacy, and to look into the underlying causes of the crisis.

[Al-Qaryuti] Mr. Minister, how do you react to the ceaseless attempts to block a UN Security Council resolution concerning the protection of Palestinians in the occupied territories?

[Al-Qasim] Of course, one must observe the that there is discrimination, which can be observed from the zealousness and action to provide resources. You see some powers with considerable weight in this world clearly adopting certain strong stands if the harm is inflicted by the Arab side. If the aggressor is a non-Arab, Israel for example, we see complete indifference and attempts to escape from abiding by the major principles that regulate relations among the world states. These principles also ensure good neighborliness, justice, and human rights—concepts that the Palestinian people in the occupied territories are lacking, and we do not see anyone supporting these rights as they should. Therefore, we believe that the standard used by certain big powers to view some similar questions is faulty, in view of the fact that there are pressures and commitments to the Israeli enemy while there are no commitments to the Arab rights, unless there is an interest that is not necessarily in the Arabs' interest.

[Al-Qaryuti] Mr. Minister, there is a call to convene an Arab summit and there is a call to hold a mini-summit. What is Jordanian diplomacy's position on these two calls?

[Al-Qasim] As you know, since the beginning of the crisis, His Majesty the King had a clear idea and he proceeded to establish the idea of the Arab solution. The Arab solution can only be achieved through a meeting, and any Arab meeting must be based on a minimum level of understanding among the parties directly concerned with the crisis we are facing these days. Therefore, our position then was that there must be an Arab solution. And, today, Jordan states that there must be an Arab meeting to help end the crisis in a manner that would protect, not harm, Arab rights. We welcome any meeting, but there must be preparations for such a meeting. Preparations do not begin by imposing hegemony or trying to prevent any party from expressing his views by any other parties that are trying to achieve their own objectives at the expense of rights and stability in this region.

[Al-Qaryuti] Thank you, Mr. Minister. [end recording]

UK Group Asks To Set Up Peace Camp on Border

JN2611125390 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Nov 90 p 1

[By Nayif al-Ma'ani]

[Text] SAWT AL-SHA'B has learned that a number of British and European citizens in London have approached the Jordanian Embassy in London with a request to allow them to set up a peace camp on the Jordanian-Iraqi borders.

According to SAWT AL-SHA'B sources, the objective of this camp is to attract world attention to the dangers of a war erupting in the Gulf region.

By doing so they seek to urge the world to find a peaceful settlement to the crisis.

It was also learned that the competent authorities are currently studying this request.

Anti-Israel Acts Show 'Pan-Arab Struggle'

JN2611095890 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Nov 90 p 16

[Editorial: The Pan-Arab Struggle Against the U.S.-Zionist Alliance Is An Indivisible Whole"]

[Text] As we have frequently and repeatedly said, the U.S.-Zionist alliance was perhaps able to confiscate the will of some Arab rulers and to turn them into obedient tools, but this alliance did not and will not manage to confiscate the will of this glorious nation.

The heroic operation carried out by an Egyptian soldier and in which he killed four Zionist soldiers and settlers and wounded 34 [as published] others when he opened fire on a convoy of Zionist soldiers and settlers near Umm al-Rashrash, shouting "God Is Great" and "Long Live the People of Palestine," confirms beyond doubt that the Egyptian Army which crossed the Suez Canal will remain an Arab army stationed in the center of Arab-Zionist dispute regardless of the attempts to remove it from the circle of this dispute.

This heroic Egyptian soldier has proved that all attempts at normalization with Israel will fail as long as Palestine is under Israeli occupation.

As for the Lebanese heroine Fadwa Ghanim, who detonated the explosives she was carrying near a Zionist patrol in Southern Lebanon, killing 12 Zionist soldiers and destroying two armored vehicles, she tangibly proved that all the Arabs, wherever they are located, are standing in one trench against the Zionist enemy, especially since this martyrdom operation took place only hours after the sinking of a Zionist enemy gunboat by five Arab fedayeen.

These heroic operations carried out by the sons of Egypt, Lebanon, and Palestine at this time when the Bush administration is trying to involve Israel in its alliance with some Arab regimes to strike at Iraq, affirm the unity of pan-Arab struggle against this unholy alliance. It also affirms that the Arab nation, throughout the Arab homeland, refuses to yield to the will of some Arab rulers who sold themselves to the U.S.-Zionist alliance and are trying to place the destiny of this nation in the hands of its enemies.

The honorable Arabs have opted for steadfastness in the face of this hostile alliance which covets the Arab territory and resources. The honorable Arabs will continue all forms of struggle to defeat the invaders and restore the usurped Arab rights.

The Egyptian soldier and the Lebanese martyr have believed that breaking a wing of the invaders near Egypt or in Lebanon will help break other wings of the invaders in Iraq or in the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

Two Israeli Soldiers Injured in Bomb Attack

TA2511121590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1204 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Here is a report which has just been approved for transmission: A Lebanese female kamikaze this morning tried to attack Israeli soldiers in the security zone in south Lebanon. The woman was killed while two soldiers were slightly injured.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the woman approached Israeli soldiers who were performing some engineering work in the security zone's central sector. The soldiers noticed the woman and called on her to halt, but at that moment the woman switched on an explosive charge she was carrying and blew herself up.

As we said, two soldiers were slightly injured. They were transferred aboard a helicopter to Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

A Lebanese citizen standing nearby sustained moderate injuries.

SSNP Gives Details

NC2511120190 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1136 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] The Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] has announced that a suicide operation has been carried out against the occupation forces in the Arnun area in the south.

An SSNP statement said: In order to emphasize our people's right to resist the Zionist occupation and to commemorate the 58th anniversary of the party's founding, Comrade Fadwa Hasan Ghanim, member of the National Resistance Front's Martyr Muhammad Salim unit, carried out a heroic operation against a Zionist occupation army patrol in the Arnun area by detonating a case full of explosives which she was carrying. She was martyred and the members of the patrol were killed.

The SSNP statement emphasized that the resistance will continue until the entire usurped territory is liberated.

In a later statement, the SSNP said that the operation was carried out at 0915 against a foot patrol consisting of 12 infantrymen who were accompanied by two tanks. It added that the members of the patrol were killed and the tanks were damaged. It noted that helicopters landed at the scene and evacuated the dead and wounded to occupied Palestine.

Martyr Fadwa Ghanim was born in al-Hisah, 'Akkar, in 1971. She joined the National Resistance Front in 1989 and the SSNP in 1988.

Israeli Navy Sinks 'Terrorist' Boat Near Tyre

TA2511051990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] The Navy has sunk a terrorist boat heading to Israel from Lebanon. According to reports from Lebanon, the clash occurred north of Tyre. A Navy Dabur on routine patrol off the Lebanese coast spotted the boat speeding down the coast toward Israel. The Navy opened fire, sinking the craft with at least five people on board. No Israelis were reported hurt.

AP quotes Lebanese sources as saying that shore-based guns opened fire later on Israeli planes and helicopters flying overhead. There have been five previous terrorist attempts to attack Israel from the sea this year, the last in August.

Further on Ja'ja Meeting With Iranian Families

NC2111161090 Paris AFP in English 1419 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Beirut, Nov 21 (AFP)—The head of Lebanon's main Christian militia has met relatives of four Iranians kidnapped in 1982 and given details on how the four were executed, the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia said Wednesday. LF chief Samir Ja'ja' met the five-member delegation of relatives late Tuesday in the Kasrawan district, north of Beirut, before they travelled to Damascus, the Iranian Embassy said.

The leader of Iran's anti-Western hardliners, 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, has said the release of the last three British hostages in Lebanon should not take place before the return of the missing Iranians.

According to an LF spokesman, Mr. Ja'ja' tried to assure the relatives that the four Iranians had been killed only hours after their arrest at an LF checkpoint north of Beirut in July 1982, during Israel's invasion of Lebanon. Mr. Ja'ja' supplied "all the details" of their execution and blamed Elie Hubayqah, the ousted LF leader who at the time served as head of the militia's security and intelligence services.

The families of the four Iranians, on a visit to Lebanon since November 13, had said before the meeting with Mr. Ja'ja' that they were convinced their relatives were still alive and in the hands of the LF.

Apart from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, they have also met Mr. Hubayqah, who is a bitter rival of the current LF chief and has insisted the four were still alive when he was ousted in January 1986. The Iranian delegation was to pursue its contacts in Damascus, a spokesman at the Iranian Embassy said.

The four missing Iranians are a charge d'affaires at the embassy, another diplomat, an embassy employee and a photographer for the official Iranian news agency IRNA. Three Britons—Church of England envoy Terry Waite, cameraman John McCarthy and retired airline pilot Jack Mann—are believed to be held hostage by pro-Iranian groups.

Coverage of Greater Beirut Plan Implementation

To Be Declared 22 Nov

NC2211120590 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] A Greater Beirut free from the militias will be declared tonight, and it will be a gift on independence day, Defense Minister Albert Mansur has stated.

The Lebanese Forces' sources said that the implementation of the agreement will begin this evening immediately after the end of the independence day celebrations, and will be completed tomorrow morning. The same sources added that an agreement to that effect was reached during a meeting at the Presidential Office last night that lasted until dawn today. President Ilyas al-Hirawi chaired that meeting which was attended by the defense minister and the Army commander. The Lebanese Forces and the Phalangist Party were represented at the meeting by Nadir Sukkar, George Kassab, and Alfred Madi.

Lebanese Forces to Withdraw

NC2311174990 Paris AFP in English 1707 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Beirut, Nov 23 (AFP)—The Lebanese Forces (LF) Christian militia will withdraw its troops Saturday from east Beirut after delaying the regular Army's takeover of the region by six days, concurring sources said.

The LF had first announced it would pull out from the region on Monday, then Thursday night, but a spokesman for the group said it would do so on Saturday morning to enable the deployment of Lebanon's army in areas it once controlled.

"We'll need an hour to complete our withdrawal once the order is given," an LF official told Agence France-Presse.

The militia's force of about 10,000 troops and 400 artillery pieces, including 300 tanks, will henceforth be concentrated in the Kasrawan region, a mountainous 600 square kilometer (232 square mile) area.

LF bulldozers were Friday afternoon seen clearing roads in the al-Ashrafiyah neighborhood in Christian east Beirut by mowing down earthen barricades and shipping containers used for defensive purposes, correspondents said.

But armored vehicles were still positioned in front of two LF posts although the actual militiamen were not in full evidence, they said.

It is thought the militia led by Samir Ja'ja' had obtained concessions on its demands to leave al-Ashrafiyah, namely the restoration of its positions in another Christian sector, the al-Matn region, and control of its stronghold by soldiers allied to it.

Earlier, the LF was waiting for the Army to return to it and its political allies in the right-wing Christian al-Kata'ib [Phalangist] Party 71 offices in the al-Matn region northeast of Beirut that had been occupied by pro-Syrian factions following last month's Syrian-led offensive in the district.

Al-Kata'ib leader George Sa'adah complained that the pro-Syrian forces had even ripped out the wallpaper and artificial ceilings.

Syrian troops and Lebanese army forces on October 13 launched a lightning attack against the al-Matn forcing the surrender of Christian military rebel General Michel 'Awn.

His ouster has enabled the government to go ahead with a plan to reunite Beirut and its suburbs under the control of the army.

Army units to be deployed in al-Ashrafiyah will be dispatched from the Sabra barracks in the LF's region north of Beirut and its officers are known for sympathizing with the militia.

Some 1,200 troops will be deployed in al-Ashrafiyah and officers on Thursday conducted an inspection tour in the area.

Part of the LF's heavy-duty guns were withdrawn by sea 10 days ago from the port of Beirut to seaside locations under the militia's control.

Seven Druze, Shi'ite Muslim and secular militias have already removed their combatants and equipment from the "Greater Beirut" area to allow the deployment of army troops.

But the LF and the al-Kata'ib had refused to budge from their stronghold in al-Ashrafiyah, a hilltop residential neighborhood.

The government had hoped to implement the "Greater Beirut" plan—an area covering 650 square kilometers (250 square miles)—on Monday in time for Lebanon's 47th independence day celebrations that took place Thursday.

Withdrawal Begins 24 Nov

NC2411152790 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Forces' military withdrawal from al-Ashrafiyah began 15 minutes ago. Meanwhile, the process of taking over Lebanese Forces and Phalangist Party positions in the al-Matn regions is expected to be completed this evening. [passage omitted]

The first Lebanese Forces military convoy is composed of approximately 30 trucks laden with artillery ammunition, rockets, and explosives. The convoy represents the first Lebanese Forces group which will withdraw from

Beirut in stages. This will be completed by tomorrow evening or at a later date. The convoys will include 360 armored vehicles and trucks as well as their crews.

Military sources have noted that the 2d Brigade, which is deployed along the line extending from Nahr al-Mawt to Nahr al-Kalb, has been put on maximum alert to provide protection to the Lebanese Forces convoy. Moreover, all side roads along the coastal road between Nahr al-Mawt and Nahr al-Kalb were blocked a short while ago. Meanwhile, military units have deployed along the road to protect the convoy. [passage omitted]

Army Deploys in al-Ashrafiyah

NC2411134990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Informed security sources have given our radio information on the Lebanese Army's deployment in the positions which will be evacuated by the Lebanese Forces. The sources said the fifth basin of Beirut port has been left for the Lebanese Forces because it lies within the area of al-Karantinah. It is said that [Lebanese Forces Commander] Samir Ja'ja' will retain control of al-Karantinah, residing there at a place guarded by a number of his followers.

The sources asserted that the Army units that will deploy in al-Ashrafiyah are those which the Lebanese Forces had named during their talks with the legitimate government. The sources also noted that the 8th Brigade will be withdrawn from al-Dubayyah and replaced by an Army unit led by Colonel Wahbi Qatishah. [passage omitted]

In another development, the press has cited official sources as saying that two battalions of the 2d and 5th Brigades will deploy in al-Ashrafiyah this afternoon. Other Army units will deploy in areas specified by the Greater Beirut plan between Nahr al-Kalb and Nahr al-Damur. These sources have cited Lebanese Forces sources as noting that Battalion 57 of Sarba will deploy in the area extending from the Sasin road to southern al-Ashrafiyah. This area covers Hotel Dieu, Hayy al-Siryan, Karm al-Zaytun, the vicinity of the Voice of Lebanon, and the Phalangists' main headquarters. The force will be commanded by Colonel Wahbi Qatishah.

Army Actions in Withdrawal Lauded

NC2411065390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has stated that the delay in the establishment of Greater Beirut was necessitated by the need to ensure the successful implementation of all measures.

Speaking during a cabinet session yesterday, al-Hirawi said: We can definitely say that the mechanism for implementation is proceeding and that it is merely a matter of time before all obstacles to the imposition of the state's authority and the supremacy of law in the Greater Beirut area are removed.

Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss said that the Greater Beirut plan has been consolidated politically and militarily because the essence of this plan is accord. He added that the cabinet can, following the independence day celebrations, tell the Lebanese people that the page of suffering has been closed and a bright page of achievements has been opened in which all who believe in the homeland and are eager to play a role in building the future can share. He said that while there may be thoughts or ideas about some sort of government development, this does not preclude those in charge now from continuing to shoulder their responsibilities at the same time that the door is kept open for participation by all concerned parties.

The cabinet issued a statement which was read by Information Minister Edmond Rizq. The statement said that the cabinet focused its discussions on the unity of the Army which has completed the merger process in record time and which has bypassed the inherited structure of sectarian-based brigades affiliated to specific areas. It added that this Army is once again demonstrating its progressive national character and its inherent organic unity. This assures everyone that the achievements made thus far are glad tidings of what will be achieved gradually; namely, the restoration of the supremacy of law and the authority of the state and legitimacy.

The cabinet statement added that a discussion of the Lebanese Army's actions and achievements would be incomplete without mentioning the support of the fraternal Syrian Arab forces which acts in accordance with a fraternal, pragmatic, and objective concept based on the unique nature of the relationship between the two countries.

Lebanese Forces Continue Withdrawal

NC2511184990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Excerpt] The Lebanese Forces continued to withdraw from Beirut today. A second convoy set out from the area of Charles Hilu Bridge toward Kasrawan at 1100 this morning. The convoy crossed Nahr al-Kalb bridge at 1145 amid strict security measures taken by the 2nd Army brigade deployed on the coastal road between Nahr al- Mawt and Nahr al-Kalb. The convoy comprised 56 vehicles, including trucks loaded with various types of ammunition, military jeeps, and half-tracked vehicles carrying personnel. [passage omitted]

Birri Orders Reduction in Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC2611104990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Preparations are under way to withdraw the gunmen of the Amal Movement and Hizballah from Iqlim al-Tuffah, prior to the deployment of the Lebanese Army there. Minister Nabih Birri has met with the Amal Movement's senior officials and asked them to scale down the Movement's military presence in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Date for Completion Unspecified

NC2611084190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] The Lebanese Forces will continue to withdraw its gunmen and hardware to Kasrawan today. The Lebanese Forces have so far withdrawn 73 trucks loaded with various types of ammunition and weapons. The date for the completion of the withdrawal has not yet been specified. With good intentions it might take two days to accomplish this step. This step will be followed by the Army's deployment in Greater Beirut, including al-Ashrafiyah and its suburbs.

Meanwhile, preparations are under way to implement the military aspect of the Damascus agreement concerning the gunmen's withdrawal from and the Army's deployment in Iqlim al-Tuffah. In this regard, Minister Nabih Birri has instructed the Amal Movement to scale down the Movement's military presence in Iqlim al-Tuffah as a prelude to an all-out withdrawal and the Army's deployment. Minister Birri met with Brigadier General Qasim Siblini, commander of the southern sector.

President al-Hirawi Holds News Conference

NC2511225990

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic, in a linkup with all local radio and TV stations in Lebanon at 1833 GMT on 25 November, carries a news conference with President al-Hirawi in which he answers questions that have been phoned in by listeners and reporters.

Al-Hirawi first answers a question on whether some Christians and Muslims are justified in believing that he does not represent them. In response, he confirms he is the president of all the Lebanese. He responds to another question on whether there will be any opposition left when a government is formed and on who will form this government by saying: "The question is will the government represent all Lebanese parties. Will the government represent all the Lebanese in Lebanon who had conflicts with each other? For sure, the umbrella of the state must cover all."

Al-Hirawi promises there will be dialogue after the militias are disbanded, and discusses the al-Ta'if agreement. He touches on the "bitter drink" of having to appoint deputies instead of holding elections.

In answer to the question on whether there will also be a Greater Sidon after Greater Beirut, al-Hirawi answers "There will be a Greater Lebanon."

Al-Hirawi confirms that the security plan, whose next phase will be implemented within six months, stipulates weapons should be returned to the Army. He discusses the supplying of services such as electricity, water, and education to citizens. He cites statistics on government debt which currently totals 1.35 trillion Lebanese pounds, and discusses the difficulties of paying interest on this debt. He goes on to discuss the difficulties involved in tracking down money stolen from the government, and promises that the file of anyone involved in this matter will not be closed.

Al-Hirawi quotes the Constitution on the right of Lebanese to live anywhere without sectarian considerations.

On whether international guarantees have ended following recent events in the eastern area, al-Hirawi reads from a statement by the tripartite committee. On where his regime will lead, he answers that it will lead to peace and love.

Asked when Arab embassies and international organizations can return to Beirut, al-Hirawi says both Jordan and Saudi Arabia are inquiring about returning.

When asked about when the Army will be sent to Iqlim al-Tuffah and then to the border strip, al-Hirawi says: "In the Cabinet decision regarding the South after 11 July, we were eager to have an agreement between those present on the ground before we send the Army because we do not want to involve it in a fight with this party or the other. Everyone knows what shape our Army was in. We were not going to send it to fight. Now, thank God, this is an opportunity to thank sister Syria for her successful efforts. You may have noticed on Independence Day that the Iranian charge d'affaires came. We have been promised that an ambassador will come, and matters will be organized well.

"There is the Palestinian side. There were negotiations with some military officers, and there was a favorable response. A decision was made during the recent Cabinet session to entrust two ministers to discuss this issue as soon as possible. I think that this is going to take place within the coming two days. The Army is ready to enter Iqlim al-Tuffah. We are preparing the Army to gradually deploy.

"With regard to the South—not only the border strip—as soon as the Lebanese people and state feel that the security situation has stabilized in all Lebanese areas, we will have a position vis-a-vis the South. We will have to prepare the tools. We are not going there to fight. We want the truce agreement to be implemented in all areas. This was contained in the al-Ta'if document. We will ask for the assistance of the brothers and friends. When I secure the instruments you might see me suddenly going to New York to the UN Security Council to openly request this." When asked if the Government had decided to send the Army to the south and what its position would be if the Army met with Israeli "intransigence," he says: "I hope that we will clash with the Israelis—and we would be honored if some of the Lebanese Army soldiers were to die in a clash—and not clash with Lebanese parties, because we have had enough war."

Regarding the Palestinians in Lebanon, al-Hirawi says they should not exchange Palestine for Lebanon, that security will be guaranteed for them just as it will be for all Lebanese.

Al-Hirawi further discusses close trade ties with Syria. He notes the Lebanese economy is a free system.

On the fate of General Michel 'Awn, al-Hirawi says: "'Awn is still at the French Embassy. We respect and uphold with all our power the Vienna agreement to which the French refer. However, the file on getting him back is still in the hands of the judiciary. I have spoken to you about the financial part of this file, but there is also the murder, destruction, mutiny, rebellion, and what he caused the state." Al-Hirawi adds that he leaves all these things up to the judiciary. He then says: "As for your question about his fate, I cannot now give you an answer about this."

Al-Hirawi says that he is having B'abda Palace inspected, but that he does not care about prestige and luxury and will work in a temporary office until his house in al-Hazimiyah is repaired and sbfunctions can be held there.

When asked about obtaining fuel oil for electricity, al-Hirawi says the Central Bank has complained of a deficit, and that the government had forced the bank to open up credits to import fuel. Since the bank will go bankrupt if this continues, al-Hirawi says revenue must be collected.

Al-Hirawi concludes by thanking all Lebanese and the press for this opportunity to speak on this first anniversary of his presidency. He thanks the tripartite committee, Syria, President al-Asad, and "friendly states" for their support.

Junblatt Warns Against Deals With Lebanese Forces

NC2511083790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Greater Beirut will be established through deals or through bowing to pressure from some parties. This was asserted by Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt at a time when the legitimate authority's plan has yet to be fully realized and remains a bargaining chip in the hands of the so-called Lebanese Forces. The whole process began when this group raised the issue of the situation in the al-Matn areas and then moved on to setting conditions for its withdrawal from al-Ashrafiyah and al-Karantina.

In an interview with AL-ANWAR published today, Junblatt said that if the Army bows to pressure at this stage, then it will not be able to liberate the south or carry out any other security task. Calling for the Army to be left alone, he said: I call for keeping hands off this establishment. These words are addressed to [President Ilyas] al-Hirawi and Johnny 'Abduh [former chief of Lebanese Army intelligence and current Lebanese ambassador to France and Switzerland]. He added: Our campaign against the ['Abduh] Paris clique is not against certain individuals but against their (?acts). We remember how, when Ilyas Sarkis became president in 1976, Johnny 'Abduh was the principal backer of the Bashir al-Jumayyil plan and one of those responsible for the Israeli invasion. He said that 'Abduh's current political and security maneuvering could result in a new Israeli invasion in the space of several months or years. The policy is the same and nothing has changed.

Junblatt noted that al-Hirawi maintains a secret operations room that coordinates with the Paris clique. He said: Money is coming here by the sackful to buy or prop up supporters, especially in the Army. The Lebanese Forces have great influence on al-Hirawi.

Regarding the al-Ta'if agreement, Junblatt said: It was a way of ending the armed conflict and therefore necessary. But if we see that the al-Ta'if accord is being used to restore hegemony, that we are returning to the era of the Deuxieme Bureau [army intelligence] and other intelligence organs, or that liberties are being suppressed and legitimate political meetings are being banned, then we will oppose the al-Ta'if accord.

The PSP leader said: The Druze are not a militia but an ancient community in this country which was forced to bear arms to defend its existence. We should not be put on the same level as the militias because that would be insulting the Druze and the Maronites. The latter are not a militia; they are not Samir Ja'ja', the Lebanese Forces, or the Phalangist Party.

'Submission' to Lebanese Forces Criticized

NC2511110690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Station commentary: "The Regime's Slip"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The president has been boring the people with all his talk about fateful decisions and how he was forced to make hard choices and take unpopular stands. It is possible his excellency believes his own claim to be the one who achieved liberation and removed the obstacles to the restoration of the homeland's cohesiveness.

The president would be well advised to remember that the time for the real and primary liberation—that is the liberation of the south—has come now that the obstacle of Michel 'Awn has been removed. The quixotic stands of the regime's organs will be correct and appropriate when these organs can claim credit for what has happened and what will happen, and when their actions match their words. However, this is not the case at present with the Greater Beirut issue where the regime has submitted to all the Lebanese Forces' demands and conditions. [passage omitted]

This submission to the Lebanese Forces' conditions and restrictions, when no other national or Islamic party attached any significant conditions, augurs a lame and suspicious start for the regime's future steps. What is ironic, ridiculous, and surprising are the assertions by some ministers—and even the president—that the regime will not accept any conditions and will not tolerate interference with the Army and its brigades. These assertions and all the other quixotic stands and statements of the state's geniuses come at a time when the regime is in fact submitting and acquiescing to all the Lebanese Forces' political, military, and security conditions, and possibly even to financial conditions concerning the Lebanese Forces' revenues and budget. Following the regime's shameful submission to the Lebanese Forces' blackmail, we must expect to see the regime or some of its organs turn into tools and masks behind which the Lebanese Forces hide to impose their plans and policies, plans and policies which are hostile to all nationalist and Islamic parties.

In view of the regime's suspicious slip, we stress the need for close scrutiny of the state's actions and deals. Caution and vigilance are imperative if we are not to be drowned in illusions and see reality crumble into a useless mirage. Some may think that peace, security, and the resoration of this homeland's unity are what matter now. These are fine slogans, but it is imperative that peace is not built on a wrong or shaky foundation if we are not to find ourselves back where we began. We do not want to speculate now about the merits of the consequences resulting from the regime's submission. What is important here is that it is unacceptable to build a homeland on the basis of submission to a party that has yet to give concrete proof of its sincerity, the soundness of its national policy line, or the credibility of the slogans of reconciliation and dialogue it now utters. The Lebanese Forces have a black and dishonorable record, a record written with their absolutely hostile actions and policies. [passage omitted]

The regime's slip will have detrimental effects on future peace and security steps. We fear that the Lebanese Forces will be rewarded with an extensive presence in the cabinet and will be put in charge of some sensitive state organs in addition to the other free gifts which the regime seems to be preparing for them. Henceforth, it would be wrong to accept in good faith the acts of some of the state's emperors after having witnessed this humiliating submission and the shameful embarrassment of deploying the Army units favored by Ja'ja' in al-Ashrafiyah and its suburbs. Time will tells whether we are right in expecting to see collusion between some of the regime's men and organs of the Lebanese Forces.

This does not mean that other parties will remain neutral. We believe that the nationalist and Islamic forces will in fact be lying in wait to prevent a return to the days of [former Presidents] Ilyas Sarkis and Bashir al-Jumayyil. These forces will be ready at all times to intervene to rectify any course, and they can in no way be blamed for this. The era of clan rule, tribal hegemony, and sectarian authority has ended, and no honest force will allow a return to those dark days no matter how high the cost. The regime has made its first serious slip; the public has recorded this slip and is following events with caution and suspicion. We hope that this first slip is also the last one.

Israeli Overflights, Reinforcements Reported

NC2211103690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] On Lebanon's independence day, Israeli warplanes have been flying over Lebanese territory since this morning.

Our Sidon correspondent has informed us that Israeli warplanes flew several sorties and staged mock raids over Sidon and its camps at approximately 1000 today. The planes were confronted by intensive antiaircraft fire.

Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon at a low altitude last night, dropping flares.

According to information received from the occupied border strip, occupation forces have brought reinforcements, estimated at 15 armored cars and approximately 70 personnel, to the eastern sector of south Lebanon during the past two days. These forces deployed in positions held by Lahd's militia on the hills of Shwayya, 'Ayn Qinya, and Zummarayya.

Minister on Geneva Summit's 'Positive Results'

JN2511071690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Information Minister Muhammad Salman has affirmed that the atmosphere which prevailed in the Geneva summit between His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President George Bush was positive. He added that several issues, particularly the Lebanese situation and issues of common interest, were thoroughly tackled during the talks, as mentioned in the two statements issued after the meeting.

In a statement to Radio London aired last night, Muhammad Salman added that the Geneva summit will produce positive results. He added that Syria has its own regional and Arab leverage in the region. He went on to say: A decision by the United States, in its capacity as a superpower, to end the stalemate plaguing the Middle East conflict can help toward the implementation of the relevant UN resolutions. Things were clear in the two statements. The two presidents stressed the need to implement the emergency Cairo Arab summit resolutions on the Gulf crisis as well as the UN resolutions calling for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and a return to the status which prevailed there before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Salman asserted that this does not conflict with the Syrian and U.S. positions. He said that this is the main focus of efforts being made to resolve the crisis in order to spare the region and particularly the Iraqi people, the danger of an imminent catastrophe. An understanding was reached on this; and this was contained in an official statement.

The information minister added: This view was clear in the statements issued by the two sides. Efforts are focusing on sparing the region any military action. As a matter of fact, we prefer a political solution. The views were identical on this specific issue. The objective is to spare Iraq this danger which we both see. This danger would not be confined to the Iraqi regime. No, it would affect the Iraqi people, the Iraqi economy, as well as the Iraqi Army. Hence, we see the immense implications of the impending plight of the Iraqi people threatening this unfortunate country.

In reply to a question on Syria's eagerness to see a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, the information minister affirmed that this issue is not the exclusive concern of Syria and the United States, but rather a world concern for all parties, especially that the meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Bush was held at a time when our region is witnessing a highly dangerous crisis created by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and when the world is entering the post cold war era in which dialogue is being held on regional and international issues. Likewise, this era has witnessed efforts contributing toward the resolution of hotbeds of tension and the establishment of ties among states on the basis of mutual respect and the realization of common interests.

The information minister went on to say: We are always aware that such meetings contribute to the formulation of new opinions regarding the resolution of any existing regional problem, either in our region or elsewhere.

On Syria's ties with the Western states, including Britain, the minister said that ties with Britain is an issue of interest, especially since we read and hear about this issue from the British media. There are no links whatsoever between the ties with the United States and the ties with Britain or any other European state. He added: We establish ties out of our commitment to pan-Arab issues, the Arab League charter, and the UN Charter. Through this commitment, we have maintained good ties with various European states, despite the fact that some governments pursued unbalanced policies contravening the international law and UN resolutions against us; and this harmed the peoples and interests of these countries more than Syria.

Paper Notes Importance of Al-Asad, Bush Summit

JN2411101090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 24 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Geneva Summit," TISHRIN says in its commentary: With increasing interest, all the world's political and media institutions have awaited the results of the meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and George Bush. Also with increasing interest, the world has followed Syria's major role and valued President al-Asad's political influence and distinguished contributions to events and regional and international affairs.

TISHRIN adds: Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al- Asad, has become a country that is taken into account in the course of events. No one can bypass Syria's influence or role. Through the principles of its policy, Syria reaffirmed that its power is not measured in terms of its area and population, but in light of its strategic position and distinguished, active presence in international politics. Syria's weapon is a rich, militant experiment defined by President Hafiz al-Asad to achieve security and peace in the region on the basis of rights, justice, and equality.

TISHRIN says: Syria has always backed efforts to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy on the inadmissibility of occupying the lands of other countries as well as efforts to end the policy of annexation by force and terrorism. This is Syria's position through which it calls for immediate and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of legitimacy to Kuwait. Thus we, in Syria, note that we will not allow any issue to take priority over the conflict against the Israeli enemy in the list of pan-Arab priorities. Nor will we allow Arab rights—usurped by the Zionist occupation—to take a subsidiary position in international attention or in Arab efforts.

TISHRIN notes that Syria will continue to differ with all those who try to marginalize the Arab-Israeli conflict, belittle Arab rights, and empty the just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East of its contents and real principles. Hence the great interest in President al-Asad's talks with U.S. President George Bush and the need to develop the dialogue with the U.S. Administration. This is why the results of the talks have attracted great attention. This is because Syria took to the meeting a pioneering pan-Arab position from which it cannot deviate.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: We hope that America will respond—after the Geneva summit—to the calls for justice without bias toward the Israeli aggression. We also hope that the Geneva summit will mark a major milestone in Syrian-American relations in a way that will reflect positively on the interests of the Arab people and the United States.

British Officials Discuss Resuming Ties

Al-Shar', Gore-Booth Meet

JN2411214790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2134 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening received Mr. David Gore-Booth, assistant secretary general of the British Foreign Office for Middle East affairs [title as heard]. Mr. Muhammad Khadr, director of the West Europe Desk [at the Syrian Foreign Ministry], and the deputy head of the British interests section in Damascus, attended.

Conversation during the meeting revolved around relations between Syria and the United Kingdom and the possibilities for a full resumption of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

UK Reportage

LD2511140790 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1344 GMT 25 Nov 90

[By lobby correspondent James Hardy]

[Text] Top level talks are under way in Damascus in a bid to pave the way for Britain and Syria to renew diplomatic ties. Syrian support is widely seen as vital in securing the release of British hostages held by pro-Iranian Moslem groups in Lebanon.

Foreign Office sources were today warning against speculation over an imminent resumption of links, but the talks are bound to raise freedom hopes for journalist John McCarthy, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy Terry Waite and retired pilot Jack Mann.

A Foreign Office spokesman said David Gore-Booth, under-secretary at the Foreign Office responsible for the Middle East, last night met Syrian Foreign Office Minister Faruq al-Shar' for the highest level talks since links were broken in 1986. The spokesman would only say that they were "discussing bilateral problems that prevent the resumption of diplomatic ties." Britain broke links after accusing Syria of being implicated in an attempt to blow up an Israeli aeroplane at Heathrow Airport. Damascus has always denied any involvement in the incident.

Foreign Office ministers in London have been stressing the positive side of Syria's international role, including its support in the Gulf crisis and the help it has already offered in trying to secure the release of hostages. They have, however, insisted that problems do remain which have to be overcome.

U.S. President George Bush's meeting with Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad in Geneva last week was expected to have further reduced tensions between Damascus and the West.

Lebanese 'Heroic' Operation Warning to Israelis

JN2611075390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The New Heroism Is the Fruit of Lebanese Reconciliation," AL-BA'TH writes the following in its "With the Events" column: Shamir announced loudly—while addressing his party—that the border area in Southern Lebanon has become a necessary security zone for Israel, and that the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan are Israeli territory that have become part of Greater Israel. AL-BA'TH adds: Shamir intentionally forgot that his predecessor Begin boasted about this and fell into a quagmire from which he could not emerge except through compulsory withdrawal from Lebanon. The strikes of the national Lebanese resistance were not taken into account by Begin and Sharon. These strikes, however, toppled them.

AL-BA'TH says: Today, the Lebanese hope began to reinforce its positive elements. Yesterday's heroic martyrdom operation is not something normal, but a response to Shamir and a Lebanese popular warning to the arrogant Zionists.

The paper affirms that the Lebanese people, who have every right to liberate their national soil, have every right to use all the methods that help them achieve this right. Therefore, yesterday's heroic operation will not be the last, but the first under the national Lebanese revival and increasing Lebanese hope.

India

Bhutanese King Arrives for Four-Day Visit

BK2311162790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan arrived in New Delhi a short while ago on a four-day official visit to India. He was received at the airport, among others, by the minister for commerce and justice, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, and the Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi.

During his stay in the capital, he will have official-level talks with the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, and the external affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla. He will also call on the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman.

Meets Shekhar

BK2411100690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, today called on the king of Bhutan, Mr. Jigme Sigye Wangchuk, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House]. The meeting lasted about half an hour. Both the leaders discussed wide-ranging issues of bilateral interest. Earlier, the external affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, met the king. Mr. Jigme Singye Wangchuk arrived in New Delhi yesterday on a four-day visit to this country.

Confers With President

BK2411152490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan, now on a four-day official visit to India, had talks on bilateral relations with the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, and the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, today. Steps to increase economic relations between the two countries are understood to have been discussed during the talks. The king told Mr. Venkataraman that his government is keen to have Indian assistance on constructing two more large hydroelectric projects. During the half-hour meeting with the president, King Jigme Singye Wangchuk also talked about the recently concluded SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit conference. He said the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, provided a new direction to the deliberations of SAARC leaders.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar, who called on the Bhutan king at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House], also had talks with the visiting dignitary on regional issues.

Attends Document Signing

BK2511100590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] India and Bhutan have signed a memorandum of understanding for construction of phase two and three of the Chukha hydroelectric project. The documents to this effect were signed in New Delhi today by the secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr. L.L. Mehrotra, and the Bhutanese ambassador, Mr. Dashokarma Letho. The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, and the king of Bhutan were also present on the occasion.

Our correspondent reports that the detailed project reports will be prepared by the Indian engineers. The estimated cost of the two projects will be about 800 crore rupees and the projects are expected to have an installed capacity of 1,000 megawatt of power.

It may be recalled that phase one of the Chukha hydroelectric project was completed by the Indian engineers in 1988 and was inaugurated by the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, and the king of Bhutan. The 247-crore-rupee project was completed with the help of over 8,000 technicians and workers. One of the biggest and most prestigious projects undertaken abroad by India, this project involves the construction of a dam to divert the waters of the Wong Chu River through a huge tunnel leading to a power house built underground.

Nepalese Prime Minister Arrives in Delhi 25 Nov

BK2511161590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister of Nepal, Mr. K.P. Bhattarai, arrived in New Delhi [from Trivandrum in Kerala State] this evening on a three-day visit to India. He was received at the airport by the minister of commerce and law and justice, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy.

Speaking to newsmen at the airport, the visiting dignitary said though there is no specific agenda, he will discuss certain issues with the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar. He described his visit as primarily a goodwill. During his stay in the capital, Mr. Bhattarai will also hold a meeting with the external affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, before leaving for Kathmandu tomorrow evening.

Makes Arrival Statement

BK2611063090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] The Nepalese prime minister, Mr. Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, has said that his government will severely deal with any case of Punjab and Kashmir terrorists being given shelter in Nepal. He said this while talking to newsmen on his arrival in New Delhi last evening. Mr. Bhattarai will hold talks with the external affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, before leaving for Kathmandu today.

Prime Minister Returns From SAARC Summit

BK2311161490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister has said that a new chapter in Indo-Pak relationship will begin soon. Mr. Chandra

Shekhar was talking to newsmen at Bangalore airport this evening on his way back from Maldives after attending the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] conference. Referring to his discussions with the Pakistan prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, at Male, he said this has resulted in a better understanding of the problems between the two countries. Mr. Chandra Shekhar pointed out that India has no big brother attitude toward others, but at the same time others will not be allowed to browbeat it. The prime minister said that the SAARC conference is a collective effort and assumed its substantial results.

On the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [the disputed shrine-mosque site] issue, the prime minister said the country is now facing a difficult time and he has appealed to all the parties concerned to work out an amicable settlement.

About the problem of shortages of petroleum products, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the government has already taken several steps to solve it.

On his arrival at the airport, the prime minister was received by the state governor, Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singh, the chief minister, Mr. S. Bangarappa, his cabinet colleagues, and others. Mr. Chandra Shekhar called on the former president, Mr. Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy, and inquired about his health.

Speaks on Arrival

BK2411095890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister has asserted that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] or any such organizations will not be allowed to use Indian soil to create problems in their countries. Mr. Chandra Shekhar was speaking to newspersons on his arrival in New Delhi from Male last night after attending the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit. He said LTTE is a concern of Sri Lanka and when a specific complaint is received from Colombo, New Delhi will look into it.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar expressed the hope that a new chapter in Indo-Pak relations will begin soon. Expressing satisfaction over the talks he had with his Pakistani counterpart in Male, the prime minister said Islamabad has reciprocated India's desire to maintain peace in the region. He said the talks at the foreign secretaries' level will be held soon and the Indo-Pak joint commission will also meet in the near future. Mr. Chandra Shekhar, howerver, ruled out an immediate prime minister-level talks between the two neighbors.

Describing the SAARC summit as successful, the prime minister said all members were of the opinion that they should pool their resources and share information among themselves. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the member-countries will have a regional fund and the details for setting up of the projects will soon be worked out. The prime minister was of the opinion that the greatest achievement of the Male summit has been to facilitate people-to-people contact in the region. Replying to a question, Mr. Chandra Shekhar expressed unhappiness over the incident involving journalists at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] last Wednesday [21 November]. He assured that the matter will be looked into to avoid recurrence of such incidents.

Earlier, while talking to the accompanying journalists on his way back home, the prime minister assured that the government will take immediate measures to improve the state of the economy which is at present in a bad shape. The prime minister said the country needs a new industrial policy and the government will take its decision soon on this issue.

Referring to the oil crisis and the price situation, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said it is a challenging task and the government will take all necessary measures.

Asylum Appeal Made for Burmese Hijackers

BK2511095490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Several prominent persons in public life have appealed to the president to grant political asylum to the two Burmese youths who hijacked a Thai Internationnal Airliner to Calcutta early this month. Among the signatories to the appeal are the economist and former vice chancellor of Vishwa Bharati University, Mr. Amlan Dutta, and the noted writer, Mrs. Mahashweta Devi.

Army Rescues 13 Abandoned Kashmiri Youths

BK2511145190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] The Indian Army has rescued 13 Kashmiri youths from the snow-bound mountains in Kupwara sector after their Pakistani guides left them without food and water. Talking to reporters in the Srinagar Army Hospital, the rescued youths said they were being taken forcibly to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir for arms training. There were about 120 persons in the group, including 20 militants of the outlawed JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] and six Pakistani guides. After walking for about four days through snow-bound jungles, they were left back because of frostbite and food shortage.

V.P. Singh Hints at Left Democratic Front

BK2411095690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] The former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has hinted at the formation of a left democratic front. He said in Patna yesterday that a formal decision will be taken at a meeting of the joint coordination committee of the Janata Dal and left parties in this regard on the 30th of this month. Mr. Singh said it has been decided to form a coordination committee of these parties at the national and state level. He said a new force, other than the Congress-I and BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], is fast emerging on the national horizon, transcending political and communal barriers to safeguard the country's unity and remove social imbalances.

V.P. Singh Holds Public Meeting on Job Quotas

BK2511155590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] The former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has warned that any effort to impose president's rule in Bihar for dislodging the Lalu Prasad Yadav government will not be tolerated. He was addressing a public meeting at Saharsa town in Bihar today.

Referring to the Mandal Commission, he said that his government had decided to implement its report [on job quota] to bring equality.

More on Singh Remarks

BK2611092990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] The former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has cautioned against the consequences of communal polarization in the country, which, he said, may embitter our relations with neighboring countries. Inaugurating a symposium on save democracy [as heard] in Patna last night, he said polarization on communal lines will inevitably imperil our harmonious relations with several countries in the comity of nations and will put in jeopardy the secular credentials of our polity.

Mr. Singh said shilanyas [laying of foundation stone] of the Ram Temple at Ayodhya by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] was like laying the foundation of a theocratic state.

Bomb Explodes After Speech

BK2611031290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] In Bihar, one person was killed and several others injured in a bomb explosion at a public meeting of the former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, at Sitamarhi yesterday. According to official sources, the bomb exploded near the dais from where Mr. V.P. Singh had addressed the meeting earlier. Tension gripped the town following the incident, but the situation is reported to be fully under control.

Janata Dal Spokesman on Blast

BK2611125090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] The National Front and the left parties are to form a committee soon to coordinate their activities. Details in this respect are to be worked out at the meeting of the National Front presidium to be held on the 30th of this month. This was stated by the Janata Dal spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, in New Delhi. Speaking to newsmen, he described the bomb blast incident at Mr. V.P. Singh's meeting at Sitamarhi in Bihar as indicating the reaction of the Congress-I-Janata Dal-S combine to the extraordinary response to the former prime minister's meeting.

On the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] issue, Mr. Reddy reiterated the party's stand that if the contending parties fail to reach an agreement, the court verdict should be accepted.

Shekhar Party Denies Responsibility

BK2611145290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] The Janata Dal-S has reiterated that a solution to the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] controversy can be found through mutual consultations and by keeping the issue above party politics. Briefing newsmen in New Delhi today, the party spokesmen—Mr. S.P. Malaviya and Mr. Om Prakash Chautala—said the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has initiated negotiations with those concerned. However, they declined to give details of the talks.

Replying to a question, Mr. Malaviya denied that his party had any hand in yesterday's bomb blast at the V.P. Singh rally at Sitamarhi in Bihar. He said the allegation to this effect is baseless and mischievous and is aimed at maligning the Janata Dal-S in the eyes of the people.

Government Initiates Talks on Shrine Issue

BK2511152590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] The government has initiated a dialogue on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine-mosque] issue. The Janata Dal-S general secretary, Mr. Satya Prakash Malaviya, told newsmen in New Delhi today that the prime minister has already held talks with some political and religious leaders. He said the matter is presently before a three-judge bench of the Allahabad High Court, but negotiations can go side by side the judicial process.

Diesel Oil Supplies to Punjab Increase

BK2411101890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] The center has directed oil companies to release an additional quota of 9.2 percent of high speed diesel oil to Punjab. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, this is being done in view of the forthcoming rabi [spring crop] sowing season, kharif [autumn] agricultural operations, and grain movement. The center has also agreed to waive the proposed 10 percent cut on high-speed diesel supplies in view of the hardships faced by the agricultural sector.

Supply Cut Withdrawn

BK2411152290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] The government has announced withdrawal of the 10-percent cut on the supply of high-speed diesel to bulk consumers from Monday. The petroleum and chemicals minister, Mr. Satya Prakash Malaviya, told newsmen in New Delhi today that it will restore the stock position of diesel as prevailed in November last year. He said oil companies have been instructed to meet the demand of diesel on a priority basis to the agricultural sector. Mr. Malaviya said the current shortage of diesel is due to the constraints in balance of payments and the Gulf crisis.

Government Bans Akali Factions Meeting

BK2411160690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] The Punjab government has banned the meeting of various Akali factions sheduled for tomorrow at Anandpur Saheb. Several Akali leaders and activists have been arrested in Punjab and Chandigarh as a precautionary measure. Agency reports say, among those arrested include Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann and Mr. Tota Singh.

According to an official spokesman, the government has viewed with concern the developments in the wake of the desecration of religious places by agent provocateurs as a part of the deep-rooted conspiracy hatched in a neighboring country. He said the nefarious designs are aimed at creating communal disturbances, general disorder, and conditions of lawlessness in order to weaken the country. The spokesman said as part of the plan, some antinational forces have sought to further inflame the situation by convening this meeting with a definite intention of announcing their subversive program of action.

Meanwhile, an indefinite curfew was imposed in Tarn Taran in Amritsar District after the district superintendent of police operations Mr. Harjeet Singh and three other policemen were killed in a bomb explosion in the town this morning. Another policeman was seriously injured in the explosion. And in another incident, terrorists opened indiscriminate fire in Patti town, killing five persons late last night. Elsewhere in the district, three persons, including a home guard volunteer, were killed and another three injured in separate incidents.

Akali Dal Leaders Arrested

BK2511052490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] In Punjab, the Akali Dal-Badal president, Mr. Prakash Singh Badal, and the SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee—Sikh Temple Management Committee] chief, Mr. G.S. Tohra, were arrested in Chandigarh last night as a precautionary measure. The party general secretary, Mr. Kuldip Singh Wadala, was also arrested.

Earlier, Akali Dal-Mann leader Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann and the president of the Akali Dal-Longwal, Mr. Tota Singh, were taken into custody. As reported earlier, the state government has banned the meeting called by various Akali factions at Anandpur Saheb today. The government has viewed with concern the developments in the wake of desecration of religious places by agent provocateurs as a part of the deep-rooted conspiracy hatched in a neighboring country. An official spokesman said some antinational forces have sought to further aggravate the situation by convening today's meeting at Anadpur Saheb with an intention to intensify subversive activities.

Meanwhile, three terrorists were killed in an encounter with the security forces near Verka bypass in Amritsar last night. A large quantity of arms and ammunition have been recovered from the killed terrorists.

Shekhar Speaks on Alkali Arrests, Other Issues

BK2611060590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister has said that the leaders of various factions of the Akali Dal were arrested and their meeting at Anandpur Saheb banned yesterday to avert further aggravation of the Punjab problem. These steps have been taken as a preventive measure on the information that the arrested leaders had proposed to adopt a resolution at this meeting which would have created misunderstanding. Mr. Chandra Shekhar was talking to newsmen who had accompanied him on his visit to Bombay.

Referring to the killings in Punjab, he again appealed to the people to shun violence. He pointed out that violence is always self-defeating and will serve no purpose. The prime minister said he is always willing to sort out any issue by holding talks with anyone provided one stands by India.

During his talks with newsmen, the prime minister answered several questions about various problems confronting the country. About the Vishwa Hindu Parishad's [World Hindu Council] plan to start Kar Seva [voluntary service to build temple] in Ayodhya, the prime minister said the situation is not the same as it was earlier. He said any step which may lead to tension should be avoided even if it is symbolic. He said that the government is making efforts to resolve the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine-mosque issue] issue and a dialogue has been initiated. He described communalism as an aberration of politics which has to be rectified with collective efforts.

Referring to the Kashmir problem, he said he feels that local people should be involved in running the administration. Regarding the revival of the state assembly, he said the case is pending before the court and its verdict is awaited. On the state of the economy, the prime minister said the country is facing a crisis but there is no reason to be panicky about it. With better fiscal management and discipline the country will get over it.

Answering a question about lowering the petrol prices in view of the declining petroleum prices in international markets, he said the government may consider it once the Gulf situation stabilizes.

Asked to comment upon the reported statement of the Pakistan prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, that Pakistan would continue to support antiIndia activities in Kashmir, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said he will not be guided by such statements. The impression he gathered at the talks with the Pakistan prime minister during the recent SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit at Male was that he wanted to have peace and good neighbor relations with India. The prime minister said that he will continue work on that premise. He said all the countries in the Indian subcontinent are poor and can ill afford any confrontation.

Newsmen Continue Protest Over 21 Nov Incident

BK2311152190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] In the capital, media persons today took out a protest march to Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] to press their demand for a judicial inquiry into, what they said, brutal attack on journalists and photographers during the swearing-in ceremony on Wednesday. According to the organizers of the march, the Delhi Union of Journalists, representatives of Doordarshan Cameramen's Welfare Association, the Delhi Union of Working Journalists, and some foreign news organizations also joined them. In a statement, they demanded that pending an inquiry, the officials responsible for the incident should be suspended.

BJP's Advani on LTTE Militants, Ayodhya

BK2511163290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K. Advani, has asked the Tamil Nadu government to issue a white paper on the reported activities of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants in the state. Talking to newsmen in Madras today, Mr. Advani said this is essential for the state government in the light of the disturbing reports on such activities from some districts as also the prime minister's reference thereto in parliament. He said militant activities in Tamil Nadu and Assam have stepped up during the last 11 months and these cannot be attributed to the Congress-I governments as in the case of Punjab and Kashmir.

About the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine-mosque] issue, Mr. Advani said his party is not in favor of demolishing the mosque in Ayodhya. He said the political parties as also the previous government had painted a wrong picture about the issue. He said the BJP would be happy if the issue is solved amicably.

Gandhi Expects Government Consultations

BK2311151990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has said that his party expects to be consulted by the Janata Dal-S [Socialist] government with regard to policy matters relating to major issues like the Punjab, Kashmir, and Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] issues. Addressing a meeting of the presidents of state Mahila [women] Congress-I units in New Delhi today, Mr. Gandhi said that the ministry formation of Mr. Chandra Shekhar's government was strictly a private affair of that party. He urged the women participants to raise issues to fight the drift in the country and promote the party ideology and programs.

All India BJP Secretary Arrested in Assam

BK2311125990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] In Assam, the All India secretary of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], Mr. Kailashpati Mishra, has been arrested on his way to Hilakandi Town in the view of the tense situation prevailing there. Mr. Mishra and two of his colleagues have been taken to Panchgaon Guesthouse.

Meanwhile, the curfew was relaxed at Hailakandi town for nine hours from 0700 [0130 GMT] today. The relaxation period passed off peacefully.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Calls U.S. 'Paper Tiger'

Cites Gulf Maneuvers

LD2411122190 Tehran IRNA in English 1130 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 24, IRNA—President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Saturday [24 November] that the developments of the recent months proved that the U.S., despite all its threats, expedition of troops to the Persian Gulf region, and using the UN Security Council as a pressure lever, is a paper tiger.

The president who made the remark in a meeting with a group of commanders of the Basij (mobilization) forces, added that for long the impression was that the U.S. was a superpower capable of carrying out whatever it desired and decided.

However, he continued, falsity of this myth was proven and despite all the ballyhoo, it became clear to the world that the U.S. was not the giant that it was trying to portray itself.

Moreover, on the U.S. maneuvers and threats in the Persian Gulf, the president added that at present the U.S. Administration and the Congress are deeply divided, as a result of which the paper tiger has lost its ability.

He stressed that the volunteers of the Iranian Basij Corps sacrificed their lives to foil the plots of the U.S. and enabled the country to withstand mischief of the enemies.

He said that Basij volunteers must always maintain their readiness to safeguard the country and to encounter unexpected events and help in natural catastrophes.

Further on Remarks

LD2411131790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Excerpts] The first day of Mobilization Week, the commemorative gathering of mobilization resistance line commanders, opened with a speech by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Shahid Shirudi Stadium in Tehran this morning. [passage omitted]

Referring to the effectiveness of the mobilization forces during the imposed war, the president described the mobilization corps as the resources of the revolution. Stressing the necessity of preserving these resources, he described the voluntary basis of the mobilization as a significant factor and a distinguished characteristic of the corps. He said that Iran is able to withstand and bravely resist the whole world thanks to this characteristic and the voluntary basis of the mobilization, which makes that holy institution the spearhead of our resistance forces against an invasion.

Referring to the shattering of the myth of the superpowers' invincibility, he said: The world thinks that America can do anything in the world. But recent events have proved America's impotence and shown that this power is just a paper tiger. We can see that Americans have trouble making decisions about what is the most important issue in the world today, and that the various decisionmaking bodies in America are in disagreement.

Referring to the recent trip to Iraq by Iran's foreign minister, he said: The Iraqi authorities say that the Americans think our soldiers will face up to them like they did the Iranian front. [sentence as heard] They do not understand the difference between the morale, motivation, and capability of the American and Iranian forces. They do not know that, wearing handbands, [as heard] the Iranian forces can do anything anywhere on the battlefronts. This is beyond the capability of American soldiers. [passage omitted]

Radio Commentary Views U.S.-Syrian Relations

LD2411133390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1103 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] U.S. President George Bush met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Geneva yesterday on the Persian Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

Bush's Middle East visit was met with refusal by the people who welcomed him and, in addition, it aroused sensitivities in the region. In several countries, demonstrations were held to oppose his visit to the region. [passage omitted]

The United States, Egypt, and Syria have condemned the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait since the beginning. They all have demanded Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. The three countries have also adopted a united stand on sending military forces to defend the Saudi regime.

Yet, despite such common views, there are also differences of opinion among these three governments. Egypt often declares that her objective in sending forces to Arabia has been that of defending that country and that those forces will not participate in any possible attack on Iraq.

Meanwhile, despite her perennial differences with Iraq, Syria calls that country her own strategic reserve in her war with the Zionist regime; therefore, Syria opposes the destruction of Iraq's military and economic strength in a probable war. Also, Washington's contradictory stand toward the occupation of Palestine and occupation of Kuwait, as well as the awarding of the recent $700 million assistance to the Zionist regime, have made Syria suspicious toward U.S. policies.

Yet, the recent meeting between Bush and Hafiz al-Asad is important from several points of view. The meeting takes place 13 years after the last time the presidents of the two countries met. [passage omitted]

Despite all that, the United States is well aware that she needs Syria and Egypt on her side to solve the Persian Gulf crisis and face up to the possible rise of radicalism and anti-U.S. feelings in the region. Also, the United States cannot solve the Middle East crisis without Syria's cooperation, especially since Americans know well that, in the Middle East crisis, no war can be possible without Egypt, and no peace is possible without Syria. The solution to Lebanon's crisis is also not possible without participation of Damascus because of the presence of Syrian forces throughout the territories of Lebanon.

For her part, because of international developments and the relative withdrawal of the Soviet Union from the scene of world leadership, Syria has for several years viewed the improvement of her relations with the United States as an imperative. She has also taken measures toward that end.

Cooperation between the United States and Syria in the Lebanese political arena over the past two years, as well as their present cooperation in the Persian Gulf crisis, has prepared the ground for the improvement of relations between the two countries, despite U.S. policies in supporting the Zionist regime and her support for that regime's expansionist plans.

TEHRAN TIMES Lauds Thatcher Resignation

NC2411094390 Paris AFP in English 0911 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov 24 (AFP)—Iran is "happy" over Margaret Thatcher's decision to resign as Britain's prime minister and looks forward to improved relations with London, the influential TEHRAN TIMES newspaper said Saturday [24 November].

The English-language daily, which has close ties to the government of President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, blamed Mrs. Thatcher for the poor relations that have existed between Tehran and London over the past 11 years.

"The main obstacle was Mrs. Thatcher's unquestioned subservience to Washington's policies," the newspaper said.

"Mrs. Thatcher, unfortunately, considered her relations with Iran connected to the level of tensions between the Islamic Republic and the U.S.—something which Tehran expects Mrs. Thatcher's successor to avoid," the daily urged.

"The future premier of Britain should give precedence to the national interests of the two countries in bilateral relations....without being influenced by any other third country," it said.

Iran and Britain resumed diplomatic ties in September 1990, 18 months after they were severed over the Salman Rushdie affair.

Irish Minister Supports UN Resolution on Force

LD2411184490 Tehran IRNA in English 1649 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 24, IRNA—Visiting Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins today pledged his country's support for a U.N. Security Council resolution sanctioning use of force against Iraq.

"In case the U.N. Security Council passes a resolution allowing use of force, Ireland will support it and the world will no longer tolerate Saddam (Husayn)," Collins told a press conference here.

The Irish foreign minister said the world would not show any further flexibility towards Saddam for his August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

He said the U.N.-led economic sanctions which have already isolated Iraq economically and politically would prove more effective with the passage of time and that more pressure would be exerted on Baghdad if another resolution was passed.

Collins, the first foreign minister of an EC member state to visit Tehran since Tehran-EC rapprochement, also condemned Iraq's holding hostage of Western nationals and said Ireland like other countries is worried about the issue.

Elsewhere, Collins lauded the Islamic Republic for its full observance of the U.N.-approved trade sanctions against Iraq despite having a 1,200 km-long common border with that country.

The minister said he was glad that the relations between the Islamic Republic and the European Community have been improved as a result of the efforts by Ireland which held the chairmanship of the community in its previous term.

Collins pointed out that before leaving Tehran, he would sign a letter of understanding with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati which would pave the way for further expansion of bilateral ties.

Delegation Goes to Iraq on Pilgrims, POW's

LD2511112690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] The regional director of our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs led a delegation to Baghdad this morning to discuss methods of sending [Iranian] pilgrims on the pilgrimage to the two lofty shrines [in Najaf and Karbala'] in Iraq and the other noble sites, as well as to inspect the facilities available for that purpose. The supervisor in charge of hajj and pilgrimage will be accompanying this delegation.

Also on this visit, evidence and documents indicating the presence of a number of Iranian prisoners of war [POW's] in Iraq will be placed at the disposal of the Iraqi authorities, so that they may provide the Islamic Republic of Iran with a clear response regarding their situation.

Khamene'i on Muslims' Dealing U.S. 'Heavy Blow'

LD2511173190 Tehran IRNA in English 1641 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 25, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution on Sunday [25 November] said the issue of Palestine was the most important international matter for the Islamic Republic.

"The occupation of the Islamic land of Palestine by the usurper Zionist regime has inflicted a big loss on the Muslim world resulting in a fatal wound on the Muslim body. We are trying to heal it (the wound)," Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i said.

The leader made the remarks in a speech to members of a committee for protection of the Palestinian people, on the eve of the 3d anniversary of the Islamic uprising in occupied Palestine.

He described Palestine as "a point of the world of Islam where Muslims can rock the foundation of global arrogance and (hopefully) solve their issue in a short period."

The ayatollah also criticized the state of indifference hanging over the Muslim world towards the very important issue of Palestine and dismissed as "false and lame excuse" the views of certain people that it was useless to struggle against the illegal Zionist entity.

"If Muslim governments and forces realize their duty towards Palestine they are quite capable of dealing such a heavy blow on the U.S. that the issue of Palestine could be solved within a short time," he said.

He also called for putting on a proper balance the struggle between the innocent people of Palestine and the usurper Zionist regime equipped with all means of suppression.

"Backing the Palestinian uprising is not confined to moral, political and financial support but rather the Palestinians should be directly backed in their jihad (holy struggle) against the Zionist regime," the leader made it clear.

Pledging the Islamic Republic's "full support" for the Palestinian issue, the ayatollah reiterated "We reject compromising elements pretending to defend the rights of the Palestinian people. We should make the world understand this equation."

After the leader's speech Ayatollah Mohajerani, vice [words indistinct] affairs and head of the committee, presented Ayatollah Khamene'i with a report on the activities of the committee.

The leader donated rials 100 million (dlrs 1.5 million) in cash towards a fund set up by the committee for collecting popular donations for the Palestinian uprising.

Committee Donates 10 Million Rials to Intifadah

LD2611114190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Imam Khomeyni's Relief Committee announced: On the eve of the fourth anniversary of the Islamic uprising of the Palestinian people and following the valuable guidance graciously given by the vali-e amir of the Muslims, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, may his shadow be extended, the Central Council of Imam Khomeyni's Relief Committee declares its explicit support for the just uprising of the Palestinian people against the usurpers of Palestine.

The committee has deposited 10 million rials in the Palestinian people's uprising support fund which has been opened by the Government of the Islamic Republic.

Friday Sermon Notes Mobilization Anniversary

LD2311124890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] On the eve of the anniversary of the glorious birth of the messenger of the blood-stained movement of Karbala, Her Holiness Zeynab Kobra, peace be upon her, and on the eve of Mobilization Corps Week, Muslim compatriots across the nation attended the religious and political ceremonies of Friday prayers.

The people of Tehran occupied the grounds of Tehran University and the surrounding streets. The Mohammadan rituals of the Friday prayers were led by Ayatollah Emami-Kashani. The glorious ceremonies were also attended by a group of released POW's.

In his second sermon, the temporary Friday prayers imam of Tehran pointed out the coming anniversary of the order of the great leader of the Islamic revolution on the formation of the Mobilization Corps and said: Mobilization is composed of faithful forces and devoted youth, women, and men, old and young. On the basis of the love of God and obeying the teachings of the Koran, they are ready to attack our enemies, create fear in their hearts, and block their infiltration of our society. This slogan of the holy Koran was the source of inspiration for the great founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran and led to his order on the formation of the Mobilization Corps. With that messianic breath, he left a mark on Iran and the whole world. Mobilization forces, alongside the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, have defended the lofty ideas of Islam during the eight years of holy defense. It is through this love and fervor that the world has recognized the imam of the ummah, the system of the Islamic Republic, and the true nature of the Islamic revolution.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani reiterated: The epic of Mobilization and the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran have created a source of emulation for the world. Under the skies, the only nation that is true and loyal in its struggle for justice and righteousness and against oppression is Islamic Iran. On the day that the imam of the ummah, may he be admitted to God's paradise, gave that, and today as His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i reiterates the same slogan, our people have shown the world that the Islamic Republic is right whenever it talks about justice and fighting oppression. Our law is based on justice, and our system seeks justice. The world has, for years, witnessed our truthfulness.

The temporary Friday prayers imam of Tehran stressed the point that all strata of people must be part of the mobilization, and while serving the system they must be ready to defend the holy ideas of Islam and the revolution. He said: Under those conditions, arrogance will not dare attack Islamic Iran. The paths of arrogant infiltration of our society will be blocked.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani pointed to the crimes of America in the massacre of Muslims in occupied Palestine, Lebanon, and other Islamic lands. He then pointed to the dispatch of American military forces to the Persian Gulf region, saying: The occupation of Kuwait by Iraq is strongly condemned. The Islamic Republic of Iran has, on many occasions, announced its clear and fair stance on this matter. The justice-seeking slogan from America, considering all of the crimes that that country has committed in the world, is nothing but a lie. The blood of the people of Palestine, Lebanon, and other Islamic lands is dripping from America's arms. It is a lie that it has sent its forces to the region for the establishment of justice. A country that has imposed the war on us, a war that led to so much destruction, cannot speak of justice.

In conclusion, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani pointed to the anniversary of the demise of the philosopher and the highly ranked Mojtahed [religious leader] 'Alameh Tabataba'i. He praised the service that this mojtahed gave to Islam and the Koran.

Pakistan

Spokesman Clarifies Indian Report on Simla

BK2611101590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Pakistan will remain committed to all bilateral and international agreements including the Simla Agreement. This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad yesterday while clarifying a report published in a section of the press citing an Indian news agency which attributed to the Pakistani prime minister remarks that Pakistan does not consider itself bound to the agreements between the two countries. The spokesman said that the remarks were a misquote as the prime minister has never said at any stage that Pakistan is not bound by the agreements between the two countries. In fact, the Pakistani prime minister had said that the Indian and Pakistani prime ministers should not consider themselves bound by and confined to the current agreements while endeavoring to seek a peaceful solution to disputes and differences between the two countries and should adopt an attitude of going beyond these agreements in an effort to seek a peaceful solution to the problems.

Nawaz Sharif Replies to Bush Note on Election

BK2211160290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said his government will strengthen its relations with the United States on the basis of the common principles of mutual benefit and international peace and stability. Nawaz Sharif said this in a letter to the U.S. President, George Bush, thanking him for his congratulatory message sent on the occasion of assuming charge as the prime minister. Nawaz Sharif said he is fully aware of the possibilities and the problems toward promoting cooperation between the two countries.

Positive U.S. Move in Kashmir Issue Noted

BK2411123090 Karachi DAWN in English 24 Nov 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Kashmir: Positive U.S. Move"]

[Text] In a letter to the Kashmir Action Council in Washington, Mr Richard N. Haass, Special Assistant to the US President, has assured the people of occupied Kashmir of maximum support possible to get the issue resolved peacefully in accordance with the spirit of the Simla Agreement. The official also informed the Council that the US is encouraging both India and Pakistan to determine the future of Kashmir through negotiations. The United States has time and again expressed concern over the escalation of tension between Pakistan and India stemming from allegations of Islamabad's interference in the disputed territory. The scale and indigenous character of the struggle in Kashmir have, however, proved that New Delhi's stance is merely an excuse for evading responsibilities under the relevant United Nations resolutions on the status of Jammu and Kashmir.

In contrast, Pakistan's unambiguous stand on the need for a negotiated settlement leaves not the slightest of doubt that the main hurdle in the way of the approach just articulated by the American official is the negative attitude of the Indian government. Far from recognising the need for a solution along these lines, India has launched a campaign of repression, which, in view of the massive brutalities being perpetrated daily, seems to have taken on genocidal proportions. The current international preoccupation with the Gulf crisis is also being exploited ruthlessly to prosecute a deadly counterinsurgency drive in the valley.

One draws strength from the assurance that America will continue to watch the Kashmir situation closely and make every effort to prevent further escalation of the violence. The fact that the US is making efforts to convene a meeting of Pakistan and India on the issue refutes the Indian claim that the world recognizes Jammu and Kashmir to be an integral part of India. However, New Delhi even refused to discuss the Kashmir issue which remains the biggest cause of tension in the subcontinent. It was for developing confidence-building measures to address the underlying cause of this tension that Pakistan had been painstakingly pursuing the foreign secretaries' level talks with India. New Delhi's unhelpful attitude at the parleys, however, suggested that it was using them as a cover to crush the liberation struggle in Kashmir.

Not only international human rights organisations, but India's own human rights activists have also taken note of these horrendous violations.

In the circumstance, the United States would do well to follow up the suggestion for India-Pakistan talks on Kashmir with concerted efforts to compel India to accept the proposal for determining the future of the disputed territory through negotiations. On its part, Pakistan, armed with the support of the overwhelming majority of OCI [Islamic Conference Organization] member countries, should make strenuous efforts to muster the support of other powers to press India to agree to talks on Kashmir. New Delhi's position on the issue has no relationship either with historical facts or the current realities in the occupied valley. Much will depend upon how effectively the US utilises its political and diplomatic weight to bring about a positive change in Indian attitude.

Gulf-Based Envoys Conference Begins 25 Nov

Foreign Minister Presides

BK2511112590 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] A three-day conference of Pakistani envoys based in the Gulf countries began in Islamabad today to review the Persian Gulf situation. The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, is presiding over the conference.

Reviews Gulf Situation

BK2511154090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] A preliminary meeting of Pakistani envoys based in the Gulf was held in Islamabad today, during which the Persian Gulf situation was reviewed. The envoys presented their analyses of the situation and spoke about the role Pakistan can play in connection with the peaceful and just settlement of the crisis. The meeting also considered the political and economic impact the Gulf situation may have on Pakistan. Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan chaired the meeting which was attended by Pakistani envoys based in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, and Iran. The meeting will be followed by a conference of these envoys, during which the situation will be discussed in detail.

Indian Army Shells Border Area, One Dead

BK2211124290 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 22 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] Muzaffarabad, Nov. 21—One person was killed when Indian army pounded Rohtah, a border village in Boar sector, with mortars on Wednesday.

Sources close to AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] police said that the unprovoked shelling occurred at 2 pm. A villager identified as Hakim Din son of Abdul Karim was hit by a shell at his field where he was cutting grass for animals.

Editorial Criticizes Indian Military Posture

BK2211123890 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 22 Nov 90 p 4

[Editorial: "What Price Peace"]

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has outlined a most pertinent contrast between the advancement of the prospects of peace and stability as formalised by erstwhile adversaries in Europe through the peace treaty signed in Paris on Monday on the one hand and the way security environment in South Asia remains hostage to India's hegemonic aspirations. Talking to the visiting Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Netherlands Navy in Islamabad on Tuesday, the President is reported to have described the arms reduction treaty between member states of NATO and the Warsaw Pact as "a very significant step forward", while lamenting that Pakistan's efforts over the last several years to establish a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean could not prove successful in view of certain regional powers' opposititi0n to the proposal. He also referred to the huge Indian military buildup, particularly in the naval field, to point out that Pakistan would not accept anyone's hegemony.

It has of late become fashionable for our external "friends" in particular to lecture Pakistan on what is projected by them as the advisability, utility and practicability of arriving at a regional peace formula in South Asia much as it had been possible for the two oppositing blocs in Europe to move beyond the cold war into an era of positive cooperation. Only the other day, our high-profile guest from the United States, Mr Robert Oakley, wrote in his celebrated letter to a Lahore daily that it should not be assumed that better relations between Pakistan and India, or a mutual reduction in armaments, would necessarily be at Pakistani expense. He then went on to extol the arms reduction arrangements between the US and the USSR to suggest that "a lowering of both the threat level between Pakistan and India and the amount of money they spend for defence would seem to be a good thing for the peoples of both countries".

Barring the assumption that Pakistan is a nation of warmongers who do not have the capacity even to ponder over what is best for their health and happiness, there can be no occasion for our well-wishers to keep speaking down to us in such a condescending tenor. However, there is nothing but a burning desire on the part of this nation to be able to live and prosper in an atmosphere of dignified peace which militates against Pakistan's aping any other regional arrangement—even if consecrated between the self-proclaimed paragons of human civilisation. The reasons, compulsions and the rationale for Mr Gorbachev's historic capitulation to the mainstream of Western power structure after Russia's seven decades of disastrous experimentation with the Leninist model are for the current leadership and the people of the former communist entity to weigh. It is also for them to apportion the price. But as far as South Asia and the Pakistan-India equation are concerned, there can be no going back for this nation into the lap of a mother which did not beget it. The nation of Pakistan has a legitimacy and an identity which cannot be viewed against the Hindu prescription of Indian motherhood—the mindset which New Delhi refuses to shed and is beyond the comprehension of the Western jacks-in-the-box.

Problems of Peace in Afghanistan Outlined

BK2411123690 Lahore THE NATION in English 24 Nov 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Afghanistan, Next Round"]

[Text] Pakistan's position on the Afghanistan conflict's current stalemate is that peace can come only 'with the establishment of a broad-based government in Afghanistan in accordance with the wishes of its people.' Odd as it may sound, this is also what Najibullah claims to be aiming at. The difference between the two perceptions, however, is that while Pakistan hopes to reach that objective through activating and uniting the Mujahidin, Najib hopes to achieve that through an agreement with the ex-King Zahir Shah and those factions of the Mujahidin who are sympathetic to the King. In the Pakistan scheme of things (as also in the US and Mujahidin plans), Najibullah has either no role or only a transitional role in the future of Afghanistan. In Najib's plan, he or his party would be a co-sharer of power. No meeting ground has yet been found between these two divergent views, but both sides appear to be coming out of the stage of stalemate. Najib is making a serious bid for a peace offensive and the Mujahidin commanders have at long last managed to abandon their internal feuds to make a concerted assault on Najib's forces. Whether they would be able to dislodge him through their offensive—planned for this winter—remains to be seen, but if that fails then the Mujahidin will be hard put to turn down a deal with Najib.

Pakistan's attempts at getting the already formed "interim government" to function, have not succeeded for three main reasons. The government failed to get the Iran-based Mujahidin to join it. It failed to carry all the commanders with it. And it failed to make a dent in Najib's defences. Its status has further eroded now as the Iran-based resistance is reported to have struck a separate deal with Najib and its own commanders have bypassed it in working out their next move against Najib. As of now, therefore, Pakistan's hope for an effective broad-based Afghan Government is likely to remain more of a dream than a workable plan. Unless, of course, our planners in Islamabad can come up with something more substantial.

Army Chief Calls for 'Extreme Alertness'

BK2611154490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Mirza Asalm Beg, Army chief of the staff, visited the troops at advance posts at Narowal, Shakargarh, and Sialokot today. Speaking in these areas, he stressed the need for extreme alertness in view of the threats hovering on our borders and the grave situation on the Line of Control in occupied Kashmir.

Committee Set To Bring Kashmir to World Court

BK2611155990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] A committee headed by the chief justice of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Supreme Court has been formed to raise the Kashmir issue at the International Court of Justice. This was stated by Mumtaz Hussain Rathod, prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, on the Face the Press program at the Peshawar Press Club today. He said that a Freedom of Kashmir cell will be set up in Peshawar soon.

Atomic Energy Chief on Peaceful Nuclear Program

BK2511143090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Munir Ahmed Khan has said that Pakistan wants to complete the stages of plant design, engineering, and construction works for nuclear power plants, utilizing indigenous capability and resources, to achieve self-reliance in the field of energy. Inaugurating a regional course on (?pressure) technology in Lahore today, he reiterated that Pakistan's nuclear program, which is solely for peaceful purposes, is directed toward bringing about economic prosperity in the country.

Bhutto Given Vote of Confidence by PPP

BK2511060490 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 25 Nov 90

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] The former prime minister of Pakistan, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has been given a vote of confidence by members of the Central Executive Committee of her Pakistan People's Party [PPP] at a meeting in Karachi. The PPP also has decided that all its parliamentary deputies will resign if Ms Bhutto is disqualified from politics by the tribunal hearing charges against her of abuses of power. Ms Bhutto, who was heavily defeated in elections last month, faces seven accusations relating to her time in power.

PDA, IJI Form Coalition Government in Balochistan

BK2111170890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1654 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Nov 21 (AFP)—Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) found a place Wednesday in a coalition government formed in Pakistani Province of Balochistan.

A 10-member Cabinet sworn in here includes the PDA's Noor Mohammad Saraf as provincial minister for urban development and Johnson Ashraf who was allocated the portfolio of minority affairs and population welfare.

Balochistan, bordering Iran and Afghanistan, is the only province where the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), the landslide winner of October polls, has joined hands with it's rival PDA.

The provincial coalition government has three ministers from IJI, an equal number from the Pakistan National Party (PNP) and two independents. Some ministers from another party, the Jamiat Ulema Islam (JUI), are to be taken in the Cabinet later.

The four parties combined to block Mohammad Akbar Khan Bugti, a prominent tribal chieftain and former chief minister, in his bid to regain control of the province after a split manadate in elections to the provincial assembly.

Taj Mohammad Jamali of IJI was elected chief minister of the province on Saturday.

Mr. Bugti, who cooperated with IJI Chief Nawaz Sharif, now prime minister, in opposing the government of Ms. Bhutto, bitterly criticized the IJI leadership for parting with his Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP).

Ms. Bhutto's government was dismissed in August by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on charges of corruption and abuse of power.

Editorial Urges Greater Role for Wali Khan

BK2111100590 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Nov 90 p 4

[Editorial: "The Frontier Duel"]

[Text] In a post-election scenario which had been foreseen by observers of the political scene, the Jamaat-i-Islami [JI] and the Awami National Party [ANP] have started coming out strongly against each other, particularly in the NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province]. Within the last couple of days, first the JI and then the ANP chief, Khan Abdul Wali Khan, have vehemently condemned each other's parties. The resultant vitiation of the political atmosphere, especially in the Frontier, is a matter for concern for all those who had thought a broad-based alliance among a section of the political parties in Pakistan would usher in an era of meaningful cooperation leading to the progress and prosperity of the country. Mian Nawaz Sharif is on record as desiring that Mr. Wali Khan should be elected to the National Assembly as his presence in the House would be most helpful. This is the sort of approach required to be adopted by our political leaders at a time when Pakistan is going through one of the most crucial junctures of its history. Confrontation never did serve any purpose, and it is not likely to serve any in the future. Moreover, the differences among the JI and the ANP only serve to highlight a widely held view that the purpose of the alliance now in power, that of ousting the PPP [Pakistan People's Party], having been achieved, the coalition would die a natural death. The rumblings of conflict between these two parties would appear to be the first serious fissures in the unity facade.

Granted that Mr Wali Khan has a larger than life image in the NWFP, his impact on the national political scene is by no means negligible either. At this stage, when a prolongation of the Afghan conflict and the consequent perpetuation of the puppet Najib regime at Kabul can serve the interests of none but the USA, the ANP leader, with his meaningful equation with the Soviet Union, is in an ideal position to use his good offices for resolving the impasse. He could do this country, and the Pakhtoon brethren on both sides of the Durand Line, no greater service than to utilise his talents and standing as a statesman to the cause of bringing peace to the war-torn Afghan nation. The trouble with most of our supposedly progressive politicians, especially of the hard-boiled variety, is that they are at a genuine loss to readjust their sights to the dramatic new realities of the world today. With reference specifically to Afghanistan, it is apparent that the Soviet Union has a compelling but cautious desire to secure stability for its soft underbelly by coming to terms even with the 'fundamentalist' Mujahidin whom the United States, for its own good reasons, is not willing to touch with a nine-foot pole. It is in that context that Mr Wali Khan is ideally placed to play a historic role of conciliation. Such a realisation on his part would also go a long way in removing the unnecessary clash of perceptions between himself and his new partners in the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad]. At any rate, the IJI is under no compulsion in terms of its legislature strength at both the Centre and in NWFP, to carry the ANP along. But a parting of the ways can be avoided.

Sri Lanka

Minister Queried on Operation in Curfew Areas

BK2311114090 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] The forces have warned the people living in the curfew-declared areas in the Jaffna, Kilinochchi, and Mullaitivu Districts to remain indoors during the curfew hours. They say the curfew has been declared to prevent the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] from using innocent civilians as shields at the proposed commemoration day of their dead cadres. At the same time, the LTTE terrorists are also warned that if they try to create disturbances in the Jaffna fort area at any stage, they will be dealt with. This was stated by Minister of Plantation Industries and State Minister for Defense Ranjan Wijeratne at the weekly news conference held at the Parliamentary complex yesterday. Mr. Wijeratne said that the forces were now ready for the next stage of the operation.

Meanwhile, the Mannar Island has been made free and Muslim refugees have now begun to move in.

Responding to a question, the minister said that arms still kept coming down from Tamil Nadu. Our forces were all out to deal with the situation. Not only arms but even fuel comes from Tamil Nadu. Many who have attempted to do so have been killed by the Sri Lanka Navy. This will be halted very soon. He noted that the government was confident that the center [Indian central government] would [passage indistinct] India. Mr. Wijeratne also said that there was information about the LTTE having textiles and small arms factories in South India.

He disclosed that the strength of the Army will be increased to 100,000 by 1992. The police have detected some JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] hideouts in the

Kandy District. A large quantity of arms and ammunition used by the JVP have also been recovered. Responding to a question on the arrest of (J.V. Piya), Mr. Wijeratne said the person arrested was not the present leader of that movement. The present leader, he added, was Somavalsa Amarasinghe. At this stage, the minister passed around a passport size photograph of Somavalsa Amarasinghe for the media personnel.

Defense Ministry Communique on Operations

BK2411120490 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] The security forces conducted operations in the Tellippalai area in the Jaffna Peninsula during the 48 hours ending at 1200 yesterday. Three automatic rifles, magazines, camouflage uniforms, Johnny mines, terrorist literature, and military equipment were recovered. A Defense Ministry communique says 23 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists were killed in this encounter. Forty-two bodies were located. Three soldiers also died in this encounter. The security forces killed three terrorists and recovered Johnny mines and military equipment in the operations they conducted in the Kadduvan area. A security forces foot patrol in Kankesanturai area was fired upon by a group of LTTE terrorists. The terrorists fled when the troops retaliated, leaving behind their communications equipment. One soldier was reported wounded. The communique adds that an Army detachment at Mankulam was attacked by the LTTE on the night of the 22d of November with mortars and small arms fire. In the action, four soldiers were killed and 30 wounded, of whom six are in serious condition. It is reported that in the counterattack about 75 terrorists have been killed and several injured. The Navy destroyed an LTTE boat fitted with two high-powered outboard motors and killed its occupants off the coast of the Jaffna Peninsula between the islands of Delft and Pungutivu.

The security forces raided an LTTE terrorist hideout in the area of Ayittiyamalai in the south of Batticaloa. Seven terrorists were killed and 39 T-81 automatic rifles, 150 T-81 magazines, 100 T-81 rifle grenades, 7,500 rounds of 7.62 ammunition, 97 hand grenades, and 45 kg of other explosives were recovered. One soldier was reported wounded in the action.

According to the communique, the police during a search operation in the (Mankov) area of Trincomalee recovered 15 Sterling machine guns, 9-mm ammunition, and over 200 rounds of 0.50 ammunition. The LTTE terrorists attacked five Sinhalese villagers who were collecting firewood in the jungles close to the villages of Topputoduwa in the Padawi area. Three villagers died in this incident, one was injured and the other has been abducted by the terrorists.

Meanwhile, donations to the National Defense Fund have now exceeded the 200 million rupee mark. This fund was inaugurated on the 20th of June this year.

Muslim, Tamil Parties Agree on Ethnic Councils

BK2511105990 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0800 GMT 25 Nov 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 25 (LANKAPUVATH)—Five Tamil parties and three Muslim parties announced yesterday that they have reached a general agreement to satisfy the aspirations of the Muslims in the north and east through a constitutional arrangement to establish a Muslim Ethnic Council and a Tamil Ethnic Council with equal status and powers within a merged North-east Province. The parties also agreed the North-east Provincial Council should consist of two chambers with the second chamber having weighted representation for the minorities. They added that the question of the Sinhalese in the north-east will be discussed with all other political parties.

Tamil Group Calls for LTTE Cease Fire

BK2311162390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] The Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization [TELO] has urged both the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE to agree for an immediate cease-fire as a prelude to a negotiated settlement to the ethnic problem. Addressing a news conference in Madras, the TELO president, Mr. Selvam; and treasurer, Mr. K. Sivajilingam, said their organization has proposed setting up of five provincial councils, including the permanently merged Northeastern council as an interim solution. They said the final solution could be the framing of a federal constitution, replacing the present unitary one for providing greater autonomy to the provincial councils.

LTTE Overruns 'Major' Military Camp in North

BK2611161190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] There are conflicting reports on the fate of over 250 Sri Lankan soldiers who were attacked by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in a military camp in the northern part of the island last Thursday night. While senior military officials were tight-lipped about the incident, the Defense Ministry communique issued this afternoon obliquely admitted saying that reports indicate that the security forces have not fought their way out of the Mankulam Army Camp and they had fallen to the LTTE. It said the casualty figures have still not been finalized as the reports have not yet been confirmed.

Indefinite Curfew Reported in Northern Province

BK2411124890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government imposed an indefinite curfew in the northern Vavuniya District from mid-day today. This brings the entire Northern Province under curfew. According to an announcement in

Colombo, the curfew was imposed after renewed fighting in the district yesterday. As reported earlier, an indefinite curfew was imposed on Monday in the other northern districts of Jaffna, Mullaitivu, and Kilinochchi.

Muslims Burn Hindu Religious Center

BK2311112090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1058 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Colombo, Nov 23 (AFP)—A large group of Moslems went on the rampage here attacking and setting fire to a Hindu religious centre after performing Friday prayers at a nearby mosque, police and witnesses said.

Police said about six people received stab injuries when Moslem worshippers attacked the centre in Moslem-dominated Husseiniya Street in Kotahena.

Witnesses said the mob also set fire to five cars parked in the grounds of the newly-built centre, which is situated in the heart of Colombo.

A Hindu religious ceremony was taking place at the centre when it was attacked, they added.

Police cordoned off the area and were conducting investigations, a senior police official said, adding the motive for the attack was not immediately known.

But Tamil sources said the attack could have been over plans by the Hindu centre to construct a kovil (temple) on a land area which Moslems claim had been earmarked for setting up new buildings for the Hameediya-Al-Husseiniya school opposite the centre.

The sources did not rule out the possibility that the incident was linked to the Ayodhya controversy in northern India where Hindus plan to construct a temple on the site of an ancient mosque. Moslems have condemned the proposed Hindu project.

But observers here said the attack on the Hindu centre was apparently a result of growing Moslem-Tamil tension following alleged attacks on Moslems in Sri Lanka's northeast by Tamil rebels.

The majority of Tamils follow the Hindu faith.

The relations between the two communities, both in the minority in Sri Lanka, worsened after Colombo blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for the massacre of more than 200 Moslems in Eastern Batticaloa District in August.

After the violence on the Moslem community, the Sri Lankan Government tightened security at Hindu temples and placed additional policemen near mosques here fearing a Moslem backlash on Tamils in Colombo.

Tension between the two communities increased in October when more than 40,000 Moslems fled Northern Mannar District following LTTE orders to vacate the area.

One third of Sri Lanka's 1.5 million Moslems live in the Tamil- dominated northeast where the LTTE renewed its separatist campaign on June 11.